La Salle student falls to his death from Taft Avenue condo

Peso to hit 44.50: $1 by yearend; strong trend seen by economist

Rare street protests alarm military junta in Burma

Deconstructing Tarantino or The 'little spider's' stratagem

Fashion special: Inno Sotto, Part 1 of Modern masters

2 farmers escape, seek SC protection from AFP

By Leila B. Salaverria

FINDING NO OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY to trust, two farmers who reportedly escaped after 11 months in military detention yesterday asked the Supreme Court in an unprecedented move to place them under its protective custody.

CONTINUED ON A12

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, August 24, 2007 ... Vol. 11 ... No. 257 ... P18

Study on sex after 60: Regular, active, fun

MOST AMERICANS remain sexually active well past 60s, and nearly half continue to have sex regularly into their early 70s, researchers reported on Thursday as a result of

CONTINUED ON A2

A TIMETO WAIL: A 43-foot whale died after it beached itself on Barangay Tagalan, Barrosima, Sarsagon. Known as Bryde's whale, it is not an endangered species and is usually sighted off the coasts of Sibuyan, Bohol, Camiguin and Palawan. Though residents in the area wanted to place it in the near, local officials buried the one-ton mammal according to the provisions of the fishery administrative order.

GMA sits on 90 graft cases

Only two officials fired so far

By Tony S. Bergonia, Juliet C. Javellana and Jerome Aning

OFFICIALS OF THE PRESIdential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) have expressed frustration over the slow pace with which the Office of the President has been acting on 90 cases filed by the commission.

Only two officials have been sacked on its. Fired were Honorione Calayag, whose land Registration Commission (NLRC) chair, and Dominador Ayroy Jr., chief of the Intermodal Administration, according to Undersecretary Service Centers of the office of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Calayag said the Office of the President had approved the PAGC recommendation to dismiss Calayag as early as two weeks ago, while the decision to fire Reyes was made last week. He replacements for the two officials have PA Director Ermita said.

The PAGC recommended the dismissal of Calayag for allegedly demanding P400,000 from a recruitment agency that he said order must were helping to receive a license from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

In an entrapment set up by the National Bureau of Investigation, Calayag, POEA lawyers Esther Orbeldo and Augustus Bolalgo, and a certain Rowena Galicinao were caught receiving P200,000 from Jocelyn Enriquez, owner of the recruitment firm. Calayag could not be reached for comment.

Reyes said he would appeal his dismissal over the relaxation of sequestration

CONTINUED ON A4

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH — GMA goes going straight to non-diplomat Basilan. At the 1st Marine Brigade headquarters in Tabiawan, Isabela, Mr. Arroyo honors records if the troops who have been fighting a war that's gone to the dogs. Up front to welcome her is the Marine's cannot be a hostile fight.

GMA flies to Basilan, orders 2 campaigns

By Christine O. Avendaño and John S. Alquiza

ZAMBOANGA CITY—PRESident Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered a two-pronged campaign on the rebellion-torn islands of Basilan and Jolo, directing troops to hasten an "irresistible" drive against insurgents and to conduct survey missions in the affected communities.

Mrs. Arroyo flew to Zamboanga and presided over a continued conference where she was given a briefing on the military front since renewed violence flared on the two islands. Following the July 19 slaying of 14 Marines by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Fighting on the two islands has so far killed 57 military personnel.

From Zamboanga, where she founded out-rank automatic to the families of the slain soldiers, the President flew to Isabela City on Basilan island. She thanked and met with family with the troops and announced a possible raise in combat pay.

(Story on Page A19.) She then joined soldiers in an outdoor lunch.

Briefing reporters on the command conference in Zamboanga, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. said 90 Arroyo ordered "pinkahan" to the military and other agencies concerned.

"Operations against the ASG will continue unabated, coincidents with the timelines of the Commission to secure the peace and security of the areas," Teodoro said.

He said the President's directives included "a humanitarian mission which seeks to channel needed development efforts with continuing security operations."

The military will do its share here by deploying engineering brigades to provide labor and equipment for infrastructure projects in the affected areas and doctors from the 8 Army hospital in Quezon City to take care of those who need medical assistance, Teodoro said.

The President once again reiterated the commitment of the

(INQ) P.A2, 19

'By, Aylabyu,' fallen lieutenant texted girlfriend; don't get hit in face, she said

By Arlyn de la Cruz
Contributor
Jeoffrey Maitem,
Inquirer Mindanao
and Tarra Quismundo

"BY, AYLABYU."

In the playful, mushy lingo of young lovers, this "text" message from 2nd Lt. Ganberg Salvador touched her girlfriend's mobile phone at 8:03 p.m. of Aug. 17.

The next day, it proved to be the officer's final farewell. Salvador and 14 other Marines were killed in a nine-hour assault on a major encampment of the Sayyaf bandits on Basilan island.

"He told me about a possible encounter and what I had to be prepared for anything that

(CONTINUED ON A2)

Palace to Senate: Drop 'Hello Garci' probe; work to pass 24 priority bills

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY APpealed to the Senate to work on the passage of important bills instead of hamstring gridlock by reopening the investigation of the "Hello Garci" scandal.

"The agenda of economic growth and peace must prevail over attempts to pull us back from winning those goals," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

"The President urges Congress to start working on the budget bill. She seeks the Senate's cooperation in the ratification of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa). The bill for affordable, quality medication certainly deserves urgent attention," Bunye said.

"Let us work together to help the people the best way we can. Gridlock must not stand in the way of our collective rights to a brighter future," he said.

On Tuesday, Sen. Panfilo Lacson called for a congressional probe of the wire-tapping scandal after he played a videotaped testimony of Virgilio Garcillano, a military intelligence operative who claimed he tapped the Comelec's conversations with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano during the 2004 presidential election.

(PAGE A10)

MAGSAYSAY AWARDS

Out of shadow of death, emerged the nationalist

By Virgilio Gatus

JOVITO SALONGA'S LIFE COULD have very well been a cliché—he was one of those quintessential poor boys who did well in his studies and rose to fame and positions of power.

But unlike those who moved on to accumulate great wealth and influence in the exposure of the public good and the national interest, Salonga chose a life of service to the people.

Molded by poverty and guided by Protestant values, Salonga had to find those core values after making his choices on which paths to take as several journeymen in Philippine history.

His continuing journey of 87 years could very well be likened to one undertaken by a hero in a Greek epic—the fall of unnerving confrontations with the monsters and villains of the times that unceasingly

(SEE P. A19)

JOVITO SALONGA: from law school to school to center stage as Magsaysay Awardee for Government Service

Second FRONTPAGE
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WEATHER FORECAST
FRIDAY: Cloudy with chances of showers and thunderstorms throughout the day. Temperatures: [illegible]

Solons want bigger 'pork' slice

By Norman Bordadora

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE MAJORITY YESTERDAY called for a more equitable distribution of the congressional pork barrel as the chair of the House committee on appropriations resumed work on the proposed P1.2 trillion national budget would start next week.

Antipolo Rep. Jose Yulo, in a news forum yesterday, went as far as ask that the countryside-level, or-ient fund of senators be the same as the priority development assistance fund of members of the House of Representatives.

"Why is the GDE of senators bigger than the PDAF of congressmen? They do not have constituencies to be defeated," Yulo said in the presence of newly elected House floor leader Arnulfo Fuentebella of Camarines Sur.

"We served the Lower House. Senators and congressional are equal. We belong to the same congress so there must be a level playing field for the same," Yulo said.

The 250 Congress allocated a pork barrel fund of P70 million for each member of the House and P200 million for every senator.

Rob Rep. Federico Pascual (1st District, Batanes) said House members should have more development funds.

"There are districts (like) Batanes I have nothing against the congressmen of Batanes but their voting population is [illegible] We have 250,000. But my allocation are the same," Pascual said.

"I hope the House could look into this. I hope one day, the resources can equitably be distributed," he added.

Lagman said the congressional pork is still subject to deliberation in the committee.

The Bicol lawmaker said Malacañang has proposed a pork barrel fund totaling some P4 billion with House members getting P40 million each and senators, P120 million each.

Malacañang proposed the same amount for House members and senators in the 2007 budget but Congress enacted a national budget that set aside P70 million for every House member and P500 million for each senator.

A TWISTER DID THIS to the house of Fernando Lincungin and several other homes in barangay Cumba, San Miguel, Bulacan Wednesday night. Lincungin's wife and son were injured. [illegible]

Bulacan is RP's 'tornado alley'

By Tj Burgonio

[illegible] TORNADOES BECOMING more frequent in the Philippines?

A tornado violently whirled through a village in Bulacan Wednesday night and three of residents of some houses in its path in what meteorologists said was the latest occurrence this month.

No one was hurt, but at least 30 houses in Barangay Cumba, San Miguel town, were partially damaged by what is locally known as buhawi, which was becoming frequent in Central Luzon.

This month alone, at least four similar occurrences were reported in Cuyapo in Nueva Ecija province, Tarlac, San Isidro in Pampanga, and Bolinao town in Pangasinan.

Tornadoes should be expected as a "tropical-maritime country" like the Philippines, according to meteorologist Landrico Dalida Jr. of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

"In our country, we experience storms are current with high temperature and relative humidity. These are the factors that contribute to severe thunderstorms," he said in a phone interview.

Tornado season

These thunderstorms, in turn, trigger the tornadoes, he added.

The thunderstorm clouds forming over Bulacan and Pampanga would explain why those two provinces north of Manila were frequently being hit by tornadoes, according to the meteorologist.

Based on Pagasa data, most scientists occur around this time of the year.

Between 2006 and 2005, when 172 tornadoes were recorded, 33 percent occurred in the month of July, 20 in August and 27 in September, Dalida said, citing Pagasa figures.

"These are the top three months with the highest occurrence of tornadoes. Most of the tornadoes occurred in Mindanao because the area is mountainous and closely most of the time," he said.

The meteorologist believes that the tornadoes occurring in Central Luzon had less intensity than the twisters that pummel the United States every now and then.

In general, tornadoes are considered to pack maximum winds of 400 kph at the center, he said.

"I think the intensities that we experience here have winds that are less than 400 kph. If they are 400 kph, then will be devastating," he said.

More than a decade ago, tornadoes left heavy toll on lives and property.

On June 20, 1994, a tornado struck Cotabato City and burning villages in southern Philippines, where 14 people were missing. A month earlier, on Oct. 16, three people were killed when a tornado struck an evacuation center in San Fernando, Pampanga.

On July 2, 1993, a tornado killed two children in a riverside village near Cagayan de Oro.

But the heaviest toll was recorded on June 14, 1990 when 50 people were killed when a tornado swept through a village of Ilocandia town, Zambonga del Norte.

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Demand for nurses still high

By Hilda Dizon

THE GLOBAL DEMAND FOR NURSES will remain high for the next 10 years, according to an official of the US National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), as the first group of examinees graduate took the National Council Licensure Examination under the then BCLEX-nursing exam in the country.

"The nursing shortage is still significant and research still indicates that there is an anticipated shortfall of more than a million nurses in the US," Corey Whaley, NCSBN executive director, said recently.

The shortage is worldwide, Whaley said, and in the US—it portrayed destruction of many Filipino nurses... There is certainly a significant demand for a long period of time."

With opportunities looming ahead, Whaley said, he would indeed encourage more Filipinos to take up nursing as a profession.

"That's one of the reasons we are here," added Fidael Filoteo, president of Pearson Vue, which owns and operates NCLEX testing centers in various parts of the world, including the first center in the Philippines, located at the Trident Towers in Makati City.

The opening of the NCLEX testing center in Makati signified the NCSBN's confidence in the Philippines, despite the backup issue and which reminded the 2006 passing from 30,000 to 6,000, he noted.

4 reviewers charged in nursing test leak

By Leila B. Salaverria

AS NURSES HOPING TO GET jobs in the United States began facing the qualifying exam that is to be held here, the Department of Justice yesterday charged four officials of the R.A. Lagua and leaves in view orders for allegedly leaking questions to the June 2006 nursing board exams.

Prosecutor Alberto Acosta Jr. also ordered boss/liability but DOJ Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño the raid the dismissal of the case against Lagua Review Specialist Inc. for lack of evidence, also without prejudice to re-refiling.

Facing possible charges of malpractice and other corrupt practices in the conduct of professional examinations in violation of the Professional Regulation Modernization Act are director and reviewer Rosario Lagua, stockholder and reviewer Rosa Lagua-Albarico and draft reviewer Jonas Bernal of the R.A. Lagua Review Center and Rodolfo Philippine Nurses Association president and Nurse Review Center president George Cardeno.

The offense is punishable with six to 12 years' imprisonment or a fine of P50,000 to P100,000, or both.

The complaint was brought by the National Bureau of Investigation and the Professional Regulation Commission.

In a resolution released yesterday, the DOJ said the evidence indicated that the June 2006 nursing licensure exam's answers were "marred by a systematic leakage of examination questions" that had come from "those of the Board of Nursing members or those in connivance with them."

Witnesses' statements

It cited the statements of witnesses who narrated how the leaked questions were distributed to nurses reviewing at R.A. Lagua and Ivarra.

In the case of R.A. Lagua, two nurses said that two days before the exam, reviewers entered the "room where examinees do not have access to" and distributed the review center in Baguio. They later learned that the materials contained actual test questions.

Nurses reviewing at Ivarra attended a final coaching session at SM Manila where a Review Center employee gave various questions and their answers were given, particularly those involving Tests III and V of the exam. The questions were the ones asked of the actual test.

The review center officials denied the allegations.

Court lets Erap visit ailing ma

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SANDIGANBAYAN 5th Division allowed the former president to leave his Tanay Rizal rest home from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and be escorted by the police to the San Juan Medical Center, where his mother has been confined for two weeks now.

Both the prosecution lawyers and the police raised no objections to Estrada's request filed with the court on Tuesday.

Through his counsel, Jose Espiritu, Estrada testified the court that his 102-year-old mother, Mary Ejercito, has been confined at the San Juan Medical Center since Aug. 20 due to pneumonia and hypertension.

The family doctor, Leonardo Sioson, said Ejercito, whose condition was "unstable," had difficulty breathing so she had to be hooked to a respirator earlier this week.

In securing Estrada's hotel furlough today, the court directed the police to coordinate with Intelligentsiyon Sheriff Gil Urieta, to ensure that the former president would not go to any place other than the hospital.

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marie france

Correction

IN THE AUG. 23 ISSUE, the headline of a story on Page A8, "Dream fiancé loses necessity," —answered the relationship of Hermie and Jessa Dolot. The two are cousins—not brothers.

Use Indon way vs terror, military urged

COTABATO CITY—A CIVIL SOCIETY leader in Mindanao has urged the military to study the Indonesian strategy of containing terrorism in order to apply it in the restive Abu Sayyaf and its allies from the Jemaah Islamiyah in Sulu and Basilan.

Professor Mikhail Toni Maturan Linggo, director of the Institute of Bangsamoro Studies, told the business the military approach to the problem of the terrorist group had failed miserably and caused huge "collateral damage" to civilians and government forces.

"A military approach is not the solution ... maybe the military would take a look at the Indonesian approach," Linggo said.

He said that unlike the Philippine military, Indonesia did not deploy large numbers of troops to address the JI problem.

The JI, linked to Osama bin Laden, is based in Indonesia.

"The Indonesian strategy does not use excessive force and thousands of soldiers. It also uses other means the Philippine military uses study and possibly apply in Mindanao," he said.

The Philippine military has sent thousands of troops to Sulu and Basilan to hunt the Abu Sayyaf and expel elements of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. So far, 50 soldiers have been killed since last month.

Linggo said the military had almost thousands of troops in Sulu at the height of the Abu Sayyaf, so he was surprised by the large deployment.

"Until recently a quite unprecedented number of troops were told the ASG was gone," he said.

Linggo said he understood that this was not the time to call for a cease-fire.

"We can't call for a cease-fire because the government is running after terrorists. We can only ask the AFP to reconsider its offensive [in favor of] other means to combat terror and the humanitarian strategy was quite successful," he said.

"This is unsolicited advice but I believe it would be successful and the government would not need to worry about the civilians," Linggo, also head of the Bangsamoro Assembly of Peace Advocates, added. (Edwin O. Fernandez and Aydil S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao)

Full speed ahead for Naia 3 work

THE DATE HAS YET TO BE SET but construction work has begun at Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to get the multibillion-peso project "as soon as possible," an airport official said yesterday.

On the heels of the World Bank's junking of the $635-million claim for compensation by the Chinese builder of the terminal, Manila International Airport Authority General Manager Alfonso Cusi yesterday said the Japanese construction Takenaka had started a months-long mobilization of its workers in Manila.

Takenaka has to finish the roughly 2 percent of the construction it failed to complete and repair deficiencies in the structure like the portion of the tarmid area sinking that collapsed in March last year, Cusi said.

"We are working to complete the terminal so that we can use [it] as soon as possible ... Takenaka will do the repairs, but we don't have a target date yet. We will make the announcement when the work is finished," Cusi told reporters yesterday.

Takenaka Corp. was contracted by New Tri Builders, Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (PIATCO), to construct the multimillion-dollar facility. PIATCO is concession to build, finance and operate the terminal for 25 years. (Tarra Quismundo)

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GMA sits on 90 graft cases; only 2 fired so far

From page A1

and a pay-parking scheme in Intramuros.

PAGC Anvil Perez Salido in connection with an unliquidated ₱2.2-million cash advance used for the creation of squatters. The PAGC also found there was no bidding held for the manpower and trucking services used for the eviction.

Perez was also found to have released by half the honorarium Intramuros's share in parking fees projected to reach ₱11.5 million in the next two years.

"I hope good pay (raise) will be given a chance," Perez said. "Hopefully they will see the light and I will be cleared."

The PAGC had recommended the dismissal of Perez and Calayaya after several records of irregularities.

Cabinet-rank execs in 15 cases

But the Office of the President has yet to act on 90 other cases referred to it by the PAGC, which has been entrusted with the specific task of checking graft among presidential appointees. The commission has no jurisdiction over career government employees.

Fifteen of the cases involve high-ranking officials who either head government agencies or are members of Cabinet departments, according to PAGC Executive Director Armando Doronila.

Aromodo declined to identify the officials facing graft cases filed by the PAGC, saying this would be a violation of an oath that commission officials and staffers had taken to keep the identities of offending government appointees confidential until the Office of the President had acted on their cases.

Cases also said he could not discuss the 15 cases, saying he was not knowledgeable about them.

But he said PAGC recommendations go through evaluation by the Malacañang legal office, or the Commission of Peers in charge of handling cases of Cabinet officials under investigation by the PAGC.

Other Malacañang sources, who criticized the OP said the delay in resolving the cases was enough to frustrate some of the PAGC staffers, particularly young lawyers whom some officials described as "still idealistic."

Lawyers want to quit

At least six of the PAGC's more than 30 lawyers, according to the sources, had resigned in protest to quit because they felt that the cases filed against presidential appointees were going nowhere.

Aromodo won't comment on the episode with the six lawyers, but said the PAGC was dealing with their frustrations quietly.

"My job was to be dismissed by those who can't find their own jobs," he said.

Of particular interest among the PAGC lawyers is how the Office of the President will handle the cases against the 15 Cabinet-rank officials. Although none of them is a secretary, some are perceived to be close to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

A Malacañang source, who asked that he not be identified because he lacked the authority to speak on the matter, said the officials had been appointed to positions that carry Cabinet rank at the Finance, Trade, energy, transportation, agriculture and tourism departments.

The other Cabinet-rank officials whose cases had been recommended to the Office of the President were involved in gaming, telecommunications development and environment protection.

Shroud of secrecy

The PAGC acts as the prosecution in cases involving presidential appointees. The Office of the President, particularly Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora's office, serves as the judge.

Aromodo said criminal cases could be pursued after the Office of the President confirmed the imposition or dismissal of the 15 Cabinet-rank officials, but "we just can't identify them yet because we might accidentally (name) by publicity."

"We're not here to ruin reputations," she said.

The Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN) earlier said that the shroud of secrecy surrounding high-level government contracts had led to the rise of "parasites" and more lucrative corrupt practices in the Arroyo administration.

But the TAN said red tape and party corruption, such as bribery, had decreased as a result of an executive order issued by Malacañang last year. The order reduced transaction fees and trimmed bureaucratic dealings in several frontline agencies.

TAN's observation that more lucrative corrupt practices were increasing supports foreign businessmen's perception of corruption in the country.

Government officials that fail to declare fraudulent acquisition of property that are in the names of their wives or children under 18 years old are strong suspects for unexplained wealth.

Not on rumors alone

"But process was observed," she said. "We make sure we're not working on rumors alone. We make sure these cases are airtight because we don't want to lose face if our findings are reversed in court."

Aromodo said none of the officials was aware that they were being subjected to lifestyle checks but they got their chance to air their side before the cases against them were sent for review to the Office of the President.

"We had to talk to them (officials), get their versions but we know when they were telling us lies," she said.

The PAGC campaign against corruption has been a difficult one, but Aromodo said a glimmer of hope came when President Macapagal-Arroyo established a P1-billion grant from the US Agency for International Development with P1 billion for the PAGC's corruption campaign.

Accountants

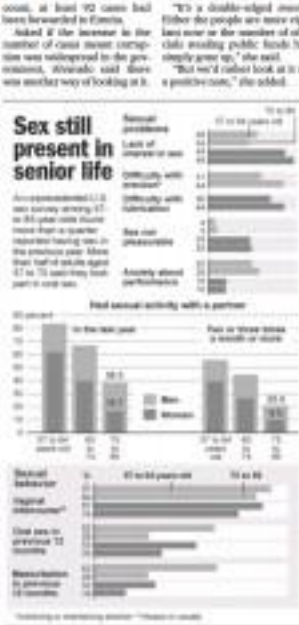
Aromodo said this allowed the PAGC to hire more young lawyers, some of them new graduates, and more people with accounting and auditing backgrounds.

The entry of more lawyers, accountants and auditors in the PAGC resulted in quicker action on cases. As of Aromodo's last count, at least 92 cases had been forwarded to Ermita.

Asked if the increase in the number of cases meant corruption was widespread in the government, Aromodo said there was another way of looking at it.

"It's a double-edged sword. Either the people are more vigilant now or the number of officials stealing public funds has simply gone up," she said.

"But we'd rather look at it as a positive note," she added.



Study on sex after 60 ...

From page A1

the most comprehensive national survey to date of sexual behavior among older adults.

But many older people also report struggling with sexual problems, like reduced desire and erectile difficulties, the survey found.

The new report, which appeared in The New England Journal of Medicine, was based on interviews with more than 3,000 Americans, 57 to 85 years old, who gave detailed descriptions of their sexual activities.

Women less sexual

The study found that for virtual newlyweds, women are significantly less likely than men to report being sexually active from age 57 on.

Women were more often without a partner, for example, and were more likely to say they no longer derived much pleasure from sex.

Experts said that the new survey provided the first clear and complete picture of sexuality in later life and that it should give older adults a sense of where they stand compared with their peers.

"There's a large perception out there that men somehow close up or occur in the later years, and this study demonstrates authoritatively that for many people sexual activity does not diminish much at all," said Dr. Robert N. Butler, president of the International Longevity Center in New York and coauthor with his late wife, Myrna I. Lewis, of "Love and Sex After 60."

The researchers at the University of Chicago and the University of Toronto contacted by phone a representative group of 3,005 older adults across the country. Trained interviewers then conducted two-hour face-to-face sessions with each of those men and women.

The study, financed partly by the National Institutes of Health, found that 84 percent of men from 57 to 64 reported having had some sexual contact with another person in the last year, compared with 61 percent of women in the same age group.

Those figures dwindled to 38 percent and 17 percent, respectively, in people 75 and older.

Sex twice a month

But among those adults who were sexually active, about two-thirds had sex at least twice a month into their 70s, and more than half continued to find pleasure into their 80s.

The lead author, Dr. Stacy Tessler Lindau, an assistant professor of obstetrics, gynecology and geriatrics at the University of Chicago, said the findings should give people a way to gauge their own experience and might prompt them with questions or problems to ask their doctors.

Nearly half of those who were sexually active reported at least one sexual problem, with 43 percent of women reporting diminished desire and 30 percent reporting dryness, and 27 percent of men reporting erection difficulties. *New York Times News Service*

Retrouvaille: Hope for hurting marriages

RETROUVAILLE, A FRENCH word meaning "rediscovery," is an international ministry designed to help hurting couples heal ailing marriages. It offers couples a chance to rediscover themselves and their spouses, and rebuild a lasting relationship in their marriage. Thousands of couples headed for separation have saved their marriages by joining the Retrouvaille program.

The program consists of a three-day retreat and post-retreat sessions. It is a special method of communication that is taught to help husband and wife go beyond exchanging information by communicating on a deeper level of understanding and appreciation. It also helps couples to put the past behind.

It is not a spiritual retreat, a session, or social gathering.

A Retrouvaille Weekend is scheduled on Sept. 7 to 9, 2001 at the Sisili Normandie House, Talesik Road, Antipolo, Rizal.

All names and identities are kept in strict confidence. For more information, visit the Retrouvaille International website at www.retrouvaille.org.

To register, call Fe Javier-Clay at 911-0-902511 or 522-6493, 525-3582; Mar or Arnel at 631-3822247 or 823-2605, 799-6987; Mark or Bernie at 897-7936802 or 411-7131. Sec or Indie at 09165-4610340 or 508-9713.

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NCCA head a shoo-in for textbook body

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INQUIRER CONSUMER AND NATIONAL Commission on Culture and the Arts head Andrew Gonzalez is a shoo-in while noted mathematical textbook critic Antonio Calipso-Go is definitely out.

Aside from Gonzalez, also being seriously considered for the seven-member special oversight commission of the Department of Education's textbook project evaluation program are members of the deans de Manila University and the University of the Philippines.

Aside from video formation, other sectors like media and the National Book Development Board (NBDB) will also be represented to the panel, according to Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus.

The final composition of the body, which Lapus described as "people with acquaintance able integrity," is currently being reviewed by the DepEd and will be made public shortly.

Definitely "waiting there" is Concepcion Edu Go, owner and academic supervisor of the Manila School of Quezon City in Novaliches, and Lapus.

The reluctance "has been aroused by some DepEd suppliers of learning for some publishers. So pag si Miguy ay siyam, marami din si Go," he pointed out.

But he is a statement, Lapus said "even DepEd critics can join the oversight committee so that their concerns can be addressed at the proper venue."

But Go "has contributed to the consensus if he wants in," according to the DepEd head.

Contacted by phone, Go yesterday said, "It's okay with me. I don't care as long as they do what's expected of them."

He vowed to "take a close look and judge what will come out of that work."

"I'm not after prestige. I have to do this because of my advocacy to restore Filipino literal and grammatical errors in (government-issued) textbooks," Go told the Inquirer.

He has repeatedly chided the DepEd for its "inadequate and misleading" 21-page forum Guide which aims to correct factual and grammatical errors in civics and culture textbooks distributed to public schools nationwide.

"The guide gave the public the impression that everything's okay already. But the Errata Guide itself has at least 185 errors. The guide needs some more corrections. It is ill," he pointed out.

The DepEd recently distributed more than 30,000 copies of the guide, printed by the publishers of the textbooks in question—Vibal Publishing House, I.C. & M. Corp. and Jehoy Jo Publishing House.

The guide supposedly refers to 269 errors while "there are more than 269 errors in the textbooks. Some of the correctors in the guide were corrected the wrong way and made the errors worse," Go claimed.

Go reiterated his willingness to "sit down and talk with/hear any fight or recrimination" with DepEd officials about the textbook-related problems "but only in the presence of independent people like some bigwigs editors and columnists." Jerry E. Esplanada

Greetings to the **ASSOCIATION OF SAFETY PRACTITIONERS OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.**
on its 8th General Assembly and Annual Convention!
August 24-25,2007
Heritage Hotel, Edsa corner Roxas boulevard, Pasay City

Companies Recognized by DOLE-BWC for Achieving Safety Milestone

Asian Architects, Inc.
CBK Power Company Limited
Northern Philippines Power Corp.
Pinoy Eternit Pacific Inc.
Project: Proctor & Gamble - Calaoan Plant
Sub-contractors
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2. Bernabe Construction
3. Hyundai Engineering & Construction Corp.
4. Hilmarc's, Inc.
5. Far Contractors & Lee Services
6. EPC & Corp.
7. SPDL Industrial Contractors, Inc.
8. Sanders Construction Phils., Inc.
9. ZE Industrial Services Inc.
10. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Inc.
11. Holy Mother Engineering & Construction
12. Asian Trade International, Inc.
13. GNS Builders & Developers
14. QEC Construction & Gen. Services
15. Pan Asian Const. & Dev't. Corp.
16. CCT Construction Corp.
17. PMPC Co., Ltd. Inc.

JGC Philippines, Inc.
Lotte-Hi International (Philippines) Inc.
M-I SWACO (formerly Philippines Inc.)
MITSUI & CO (SEA) Ltd. Manila Head Quarters
National Power Corporation
National Transmission Corporation
Philippine Hyundai & Construction
National Transmission Corporation
NDP Semiconductors Philippines, Inc.
Precision Document Services, Inc. (PDSI)
Petron Corporation
Project/Delivery/Services
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2. Petro Terminal
3. Petron Depot
4. Limay Terminal
5. Rosario Terminal
6. Mactan Depot
7. Iligan Depot
8. Port Depot
9. Davao Depot
10. Batangas Depot
11. Nasugbu Depot
12. Tabangao Depot
13. Malaysia Depot
14. Legaspi Depot
15. San Fernando Depot
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT)
Projects
1. Bataan Cogeneration Building
2. Makati Diamond Tower Building
3. Bacolod Switches
4. Malaysia Area
5. Mindanao Area
Philippine Racing Industries, Inc.
Philpetrom (Shell Petroleum Corporation (Formerly Duta Project)
RWM Electronics (Philippines), Inc.
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Trans Energy Corporation, Pagbilao
Trans Energy Corporation, Subic
Trust International Paper Corporation (TIPCO)
United Laboratories, Inc.
Viking Electronics Philippines, Inc.

Warmest greetings to the Association of Safety Practitioners of the Philippines, Inc. (ASPPI) as you hold your 8th General Assembly.

Your theme, "ASPPI in Partnership with DOLE-Promoting Workplace Safety," shows your commitment in being together positive stakeholders, experts and advocates of occupational safety and health for enhance safety in the workplaces. Indeed, your support for the programs of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) will definitely raise the level of compliance of all safety measures in business enterprises.

Our national agenda is designed to make our country forward toward greater political stability, economic prosperity, and peace and order. Our focus now is on bringing the stability of a strong economy to every Filipino more as we put in place massive infrastructure to attract more investments, create more jobs and boost poverty.

I extend the support of organizations like ASPPI to achieve this objective.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I wish to express my greetings and congratulations to the Association of Safety Practitioners of the Philippines, Inc. on its 8th General Assembly and Convention with the theme "ASPPI in Partnership with DOLE-BWC Promoting Workplace Safety."

As the government intensifies its programs and activities on workers' protection and welfare, I am pleased to note of the private sectors' active participation and involvement in the promotion of occupational safety and health through various OSH related activities aimed at instilling a culture of safety and health. ASPPI's continuing partnership with the government and its commitment to advance the practice of occupational safety and health is needed commendable.

Together let us be united in achieving a common goal of providing a safe, healthy, productive and globally competitive workforce.

Mabuhay!

ARTURO D. BRION
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment

It is a pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to the officers and members of the Association of Safety Practitioners of the Philippines, Inc. (ASPPI) on the occasion of its 8th General Assembly and Convention with the theme ASPPI in Partnership with DOLE-BWC Promoting Workplace Safety."

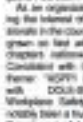
Your active participation and continuing support to the activities and programs of the Department in the promotion of a safe, healthy and productive workforce is truly commendable.

It is significant to note that through the years, the conduct of regular conventions as well as other safety activities and programs by private organizations like ASPPI have immensely contributed to the promotion of safety, health consciousness and workplace interest of workers and employers in creating and maintaining a safe and healthy work environment in our country.

The DOLE gladly joins ASPPI in its continuing efforts to promote and ensure a safety workplace for all our Filipino workers.

Again, congratulations.

ROMULO L. NERI
Secretary
Department of Socioeconomic Planning and Director General
National Economic and Development Authority



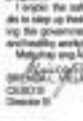
I wish to convey my warmest congratulations to the Association of Safety Practitioners of the Philippines, Inc. as it hosts its 8th Annual National Convention at the Heritage Hotel on August 24-25, 2007.

As an organization espousing the interest of safety professionals in the country, ASPPI has grown on last with 11 regional chapters nationwide this year. Consistent with the convention theme "ASPPI in partnership with DOLE-BWC Promoting Workplace Safety" ASPPI has notably been a true partner of the Department of Labor and Employment in safety advocacy and as such has supported the various of Working Conditions-DOLE in its safety enforcement programs.

I enjoin the safety professionals to step up their efforts in helping the government ensure safe and healthy workplaces.

Mabuhay ang ASPPI

BERNABE V. VILLAFUERTE
CHIEF II
Director IV



My warmest greetings to all!

I am deeply honored to be a part of the 8th General Assembly & Convention of the Association of Safety Practitioners of the Philippines, Inc. (ASPPI).

I wish to express to you my appreciation for all your efforts to promote safety and health not only in communities but in actual practice as well.

It is my hope that your two-day convention would bring about a much stronger linkages between and among the concerned institutions whose primary concern is the safety and health condition of the workers and their respective work stations.

Rest assured that the City of Pasay will always be your active partner in the promotion and implementation of the desired occupational safety and health standards in all our business and government institutions.

MABUHAY!

RON WERCESLAO "PEWEE" TRIGUAD
Mayor
Pasay City

I wish to convey my warmest greetings to all safety professionals.

As we hold our 8th Annual National Convention at the Heritage Hotel on August 24-25, 2007.

Consistent with the convention theme "ASPPI in partnership with DOLE-BWC Promoting Workplace Safety" ASPPI aims to further team up with the government to promote a healthy workplace culture.

The 8th Annual ASPPI Convention is more meaningful to me with 14 chapters organized nationwide. Finally, ASPPI has taken its place as the largest and most respected association of safety professionals in the country.

My warmest regards and congratulations for all your efforts.

More power to ASPPI!

LANNY A. MONTELIBANO, MPM, PMC, National President

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Don't go nuclear, Greenpeace asks Asean countries

SINGAPORE—ENVIRONMENtal group Greenpeace urged Southeast Asian energy ministers meeting here Thursday to scrap plans to harness civilian nuclear power for the region, citing safety concerns and weapons proliferation risks.

The call came as ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) began their annual meeting here to map out Asean chair Singapore's, with nuclear safety concerns expected to feature highly on the agenda.

At least three Asean member states, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam, have announced plans to build nuclear power plants in a bid to cut dependence on crude oil and natural gas, but critics in countries now safeguards.

Dangerous pathways

"One of the solutions for energy needs that they [Asean ministers] are proposing . . . is to build nuclear power plants," said Nor Hidayati, a climate and energy campaigner for Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

"We say this is a very dangerous pathway if it is followed," she told a news briefing. "We say this is not a solution because it creates more risks, making nuclear will last a long time." The activists expect to discuss ways to secure vital energy supplies which are needed to fuel the region's economic growth.

"Reliable, affordable supplies are essential for Asia's continued growth, and Asean is no exception," Singapore Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security S. Jayakumar said in a keynote address.

"As one of the world's fastest-growing region, Asean will require increasing energy supplies to fuel our rapid pace of economic expansion." While exploring ways to ensure energy supplies, Asean should not also overlook alternative sources such as new-generation biofuels and civilian nuclear power, said environment ministers also the outdoors for time.

At most countries plan to harness nuclear power for their energy needs, Jayakumar noted that ASEAN is now beginning to discuss nuclear safety issues among member states.

But Greenpeace activists said the region does not have the expertise and the required personnel to operate nuclear power plants, and resisted of the dangers that plutonium—which is a nuclear waste—could get into the wrong hands.

Plutonium is a key ingredient for the making of a nuclear bomb.

During their annual meeting in Manila last month, Asean foreign ministers discussed how they can strengthen rules to ensure that civilian atomic energy is not used for non-peaceful ends.

Lack experience

Greenpeace said Asean countries also lacked the experience in storing and disposing radioactive wastes.

With the region prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, it was unclear if Asean members have the capability to ensure that the existing nuclear power plants, it said.

Jayakumar, meanwhile, said in his speech the 10-member bloc will also take a serious look at ways of understanding on an Asean Power Grid that "provides the essential framework" for the region to begin implementing the project.

The Asean Power Grid is an ambitious plan to connect member countries to ensure countries have access to reliable and adequate electricity supplies. The project will be strengthening country.

Asean groups include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. AFP

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, August 24, 2007
Bartholomew, Apostle

1st Reading:	Rev 21:9-14
Gospel:	John 1:45-51

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one that Moses wrote about in the Law and the prophets as well: he is Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth."

Nathanael replied, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, he said of him, "Here comes an Israelite, in no one, there is nothing false in him." Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?" And Jesus said to him, "Before Philip called you, you were under the fig tree and I saw you."

Nathanael answered, "Master, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" But Jesus replied, "You believe because I said 'I saw you under the fig tree.' But you will see greater things than this."

Then he said to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Commentary:

46. How can anything of this holiness accept his name and is we have of the calling of the apostles to John. Here's one who sees Jesus and finds something he will share the discovery and bring him back to meet Jesus.

51. Who will Bartholomew see? Jesus is the "Son of Man" He will be become part of the inner circle of twelve? Here are we called? Who will we call? Who do we call to come and see, to meet Jesus? The vision of the city of God in Revelation describes what will be—the fullness of the kingdom that was announced by the apostles. It is now entrusted to us. And we may be among the fortunate followers of the Lamb of the Crucified and Risen One who is the Savior of all the peoples of the world.

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GMA visits 'tent cities' today

LEGAZPI CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO will visit today the Anito/green-dominant site in Daraga, Albay, where displaced survivors still reside in tent cities as they await for the issuance of houses being built by various nongovernment organizations, like the Gawad Kalinga and the Daughters of Charity, in the area (GN).

The President will represent initially six cora shelter units worth P70,000.

A total of 324 core shelter units worth four million will be turned over by the Department of Social Welfare and Development under the government's Calamity Assistance Rehabilitation Effort.

Beneficiaries are resettled typhoon survivors from Barangay Binahian, Daraga, Albay.

Mr Arroyo is also expected to give P500,000 livelihood assistance to organized groups in the resettlement area. (Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon)

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VOL. XXIV, NO. 227

OPINION

Send your feedback to inquirer.opinion@inquirer.com.ph

Everyone's at risk

EDITORIAL

THE TECHNOLOGY THAT UNITES THE MIGHTY and obscure, the wealthy and the humble of heaven, isn't television (class lines get obliterated by the programs people choose to watch) but the cell phone. Probably the bonds for hearts and minds since 2000 has been waged by means of text messages. And whether it's President Macapagal-Arroyo sending instructions to her subordinates, an overseas worker keeping tabs on the kids at home, hardcore or sweetly gaudy, the lies that bind are maintained by means of the cell phone.

When news first broke that a conversation allegedly between the President and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano had been intercepted and recorded, a troubling thought sent chills down the spines of many people. If it can happen to the President, people said, it can happen to anyone. That troubling thought has once more gained currency following the revelations made by Sen. Pimbilo Lacson in a privilege speech last Tuesday.

We will set aside, for now, why Lacson's witness, retired T/Sgt. Victor Doble, took so long to detail the circumstances surrounding the tapping of Garcillano's phone. Doble explained how the phone tapping was done. He says it was undertaken by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) with the assistance of someone, or some people, at Smart Communications. The media television machinery of Smart then kicked in, taking pains to deny that the company has a policy of conniving in the tapping of its subscribers' phones. It also denied that its officers or rank-and-file condone, much less assist, wiretapping activities.

But the allegation has been made, and what's more, what was alleged is not beyond the realm of possibility, according to the statements of Smart itself. It is possible, the company said, that someone, acting in an unauthorized manner, might have connived with the Isafp and helped it. Of course, it can be said that anything is possible. But the question is: Did it happen? And if so, how could it have happened?

The privacy of communication is a constitutionally protected right; it applies to everyone, the exceptions being clearly spelled out in our laws. Our laws are so unflawed in this regard that the anti-wiretapping law cites very hard to make any intercepted communication of little or no value in court.

Still, the allegation is grave enough, in terms of their implications not only to national security but to civil liberties, as to require a thorough investigation. There are fundamental issues of governance—not just political, but corporate—at stake here. There are issues involving civilian control over the military and coordinated politico-military influence over private enterprise, so people who work for private corporations.

If the Isafp did conduct surveillance operations, who ordered it? If an officer did, why didn't the civilian authorities know about it? If a civilian official authorized it, on what basis? And if somehow, Smart or some of its employees assisted the Isafp, how could it happen without management finding out, or being able to properly determine how it might have happened once allegations were made? Of course, there is a more sinister question: Could Smart have resisted at all a military "invitation" to assist in eavesdropping?

There are technological questions that need to be resolved, as well. Lacson, by way of Doble, suggests interrupting cell-phone calls is quite easy, as is recording conversations for future use and abuse. We have no shortage of technologically knowledgeable people who can verify or dispute this claim, outside of the private firms and public agencies that have a vested interest in dismissing such allegations out of hand.

Good corporate governance, not just effective public scrutiny, suggests Smart would be wise to undertake a more thorough investigation of these allegations. If the Isafp can snoop on its subscribers, then kidnappers and extortionists can do the same, if all that eavesdropping requires is a pliable low-ranking technician. The overlarity in general, not just Smart, can ill-afford a blue-chip stock taking a hammering in the local or New York bourses because of investor concerns over the vulnerable security of telephone communications in the Philippines.

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Atienza stands up for the environment

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ENVIRONMENTALISTS CHEERED WITH DELIGHT and congratulated the appointment of former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources largely because of his conservation over the Arroyoses Park and Malate Casino. But judging from his performance in the Espinosa vs Manila Jazz Monday, people might have judged him all wrong, or worse, misled.

First, let us look back at how Atienza got his environment reputation. As mayor of Manila, he got into a long running feud with Winnie Monsod, a group of women who reforested and restored Arroyo Park. Monsod used to be the star of Buddings of the Department of Education, and with environmentalist who wanted Malate Casino restored to its original purpose as a fine and botanical garden. Atienza had built a parking building on a small portion of Malate Casino, thereby ruining the whole purpose. The two, and no other but Manila obsolescence to a corner of Arroyoses Park. Winnie did not want anybody else to touch Arroyoses as if it owned the park. Because it seemed unfolded to the Manila Hotel, whose office was right there in Cori Hall, and they wanted an office on the first floor. It was like a squatter or somebody else's property protecting the capital issues from building a house on their property.

Then there's Malate Casino's squatters. These illiterate officials Lito had agreed to allow it to cultivate accretion, and it is now a beautiful area thrown in the heart of the urban jungle. But the owner of the lot, the workers, wanted to build an office in a tiny corner of the lot and, in the process, a few more square feet for the Casino and the environmentalists did not want that.

The workers kept bringing up their issues, insisting on their ownership rights. And the owner was no longer Lim but Ateneo, who sided with the workers. The office was built and now remodeled, but the park is still there.

When Lim was elected mayor again, Winnie also won. He gave back Arroyoses Park to it, and promised more improvements: park benches and picnic tables, lights, a pool at the corner of the park and running zoo. When the Metropolitan Theater is completed, it will be the center of social activity for the area during intermissions.

On the parking building, Atienza himself said a vast part of the rehabilitation and reopening of the Metropolitan Theater. It was to be the parking area for the relatives of the theater audience and a terminal for buses and jeepneys leaving the city.

"I did not see a single tree there," Atienza said. And now Malate's brightly lighted and commodious airport is an all hours, sudden before when it was dark and a haven of drug addicts and criminals.

The development of Malate, Ateneo, Plaza Bonifacio (formerly Plaza Lawton), Intramuros, Escolta, Plaza San Gen. Antonio Rizal, Carriedo and Quiapo were all part of a grand design to revive the downtown area of Manila, Atienza explained. He intended to do a few major projects to complete and I hope Mayor Lim, for which I have the highest respect and best wishes, will continue it," Atienza said.

He hope so, too. In fact, I think not only Manila but the whole metropolitan area needs more solid projects to bring families like the ones Atienza built. The towers of Metro Manila are chaos, because there are no parking places for the hundreds of thousands of vehicles there. Drivers are forced to violate parking laws because there are no places to park their vehicles legally. The result makes the evening commuting rush-hour hassle endured by Lim's very sick.

Drive through the side streets of Metro Manila at night, even in the poorer and squatter-infested neighborhoods, and you will see vehicles double- and triple-parked on the streets, leaving little room for vehicles to pass.

But back to Atienza and how he stands on the problems confronting the environment. First, the most important is the problem Metro. It is concerned the La Mesa Watershed. He is not inclined to give the proposed housing project to the highest garnered of the areas fixed on Environment Compliance Certificate (ECC), even with the Supreme Court decision and presidential proclamation. The project will be allowed without this ECC.

As mayor he doubled nearly by the Forester of the Philippines, done to the request of then Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, opposed that the housing project will pollute the waters in the reservoir where the water of the metropolitan comes from.

The Supreme Court decision upholds the right of the 89,000 squatters to have a housing project. Atienza explained, but not necessarily in La Mesa. The project can be built anywhere else but not in La Mesa. The initial explosives have been collected over and many of them agree to it, but three backers, mainly Rep. Edcel Lagman of Albay (which is very far from La Mesa) and his associates denied, since on La Mesa because it is right beside the environmental boundaries of Novaliches, and the land, for which they paid only P6 per sq m for more than P9,000 per sq m, which a like running the town a hundred times over.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's assertion of the constitution "subject to private rights" in her decision to allow the housing project to proceed does not mean that these private rights can run roughshod over the rights of 12 million Filipinos, Atienza said. He referred, "After all, private rights cannot be superior to public rights. The public well-being of the majority of the people, but not to a place where it will endanger the lives and health of millions of people."

More on Atienza's views on other environmental issues soon in another column.

Comments: nealcruz@inquirer.com.ph

Peace Corps: the America we do not see

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE TRAIL HAS JUST BEGUN FOR THE MAN nominated to fill a well-loved Peace Corps volunteers. Aaliz Campbell, just her journalism career on field to serve in Brazil, in one of the poorest provinces there, and lived through people who would later call her affectionately her Aaliz." It took Aaliz's death to remind Filipinos of the "tender and gentle nature" of which George Bush the Elder spoke.

Now, the campaign strategists in Republican fears of disaster in the name of George Bush the Younger, had whose face seemed to their presence in the world each time America's name is mentioned". Dick Cheney's lawyer has reaching right after he pulled the trigger and mistakenly shot his friend while hunting. Nothing gone "Bang, I missed."

John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps to help counter the stereotype of the "Ugly American" and of "Yahoo Imperialism" in many of the former colonies of Latin America, Asia and Africa. Over the past decades, young idealistic Americans answered JFK's call to close the bridge of a long twilight struggle, one to and your son, "returning to hope, patience in tribulation"—a struggle against the common enemies of mankind, poverty, disease and war itself."

From all accounts about Aaliz's work in Brazil, the Peace Corps couldn't have done better. She was a free-lance journalist before she came to our shores. In her blog, she said: "In the age of 31, I decided to turn one of the new eyes of New York, join the Peace Corps and found a place for Manila." She lived in a cage hut in Dumaji, Aurora province, without running water, and dedicated to the care and attention of the townsfolk. Apart from her teaching, she helped another projects, a Marine Ecology Learning Center called Bahay Kalikasan that would teach "environmental science for children, retired women entrepreneur seminars for adults and ... career facilitation programs for the local folk. ... She carefully wrote to both English and Filipino. "We have a home—bahay—for us," Thomas F. Hines Foundation"—and 23 per-

sons of the project will be paid for by the local community for up wedding projects, salary!"

He was later recognized as the big city linguist, still a whole day's drive south of Manila, where she taught English and organized Bible-language weaving seminars. She never moving in "until the very end," Ambassador to Japan until of Manila and former for the six seasons served on the recommendation at the time of her death, she was one of 167 Peace Corps volunteers assigned to the Philippines.

News reports say that she joined the Peace Corps ignoring, I suppose, how rather her "blog or her application forms "to show people in the world what Americans are really like because of us 9/11, people had the impression that hatred, once set loose, admits no prejudice." From all the evidence, she actually achieved this, hands down.

I might have to correct her timeline though. No, this image persists: did not emerge soon after 9/11. Indeed, right after terrorist attacks, America—the world's only remaining superpower—ground into a stupefied, angry, and near support for the dignity of its homeland and the homeland's values.

It has been said that people all over the globe love to love Americans and hate the United States. On June 12, 2001, this characterization dissolved. Until then, the common image was of America's public and official self: as so good, its president, its warships and fighter jets. The World Trade Center tragedy exploded America's private and unofficial self—of its diners and overhaul, hamburgers and wines, gyms and children, grinning their love of freedom; who risked or lost their lives in the line of duty; of a teeming repetition of strangers soon bound by a shared accident. It was one of those rare moments that brought out the personal, attractive, and, I will add, big-minded side of America that the rest of world rarely sees, and rarely cares at all or forms. But it was the invasion of Iraq that revived the distinction and irrevocably the image of the global bully.

Following the public pro-war discussion, we have witnessed the Filipinos' "evaporation" of Aaliz goes beyond the public and the official. It constitutes a move to have President Macapagal-Arroyo create posthumously the Order of the Golden Heart on Aaliz and, importantly, on the Peace Corps, in formal ceremonies at Malacañang Palace. Indeed, on May 16, Ateneo de Manila Representatives, earlier this month, when Speaker Jose de Venecia gave the Congressional Medal of Achievement to "the best men and daughters of America [who] have served the Philippines" and mentioned by name, particularly, Campbell, a "unsigned volunteer ... who are of exquisite and compassion, combined thousands of Filipino lives."

The real challenge however, is how to deepen the goodwill that has been fostered, and keep it from being whisked away by the misadventures of George W. Bush. The dangers and the lessons live in their own world, so to speak, where feelings do not become real until they are documented—and of translation, media and communication, they become real. The area of discussion lives in another world, where feelings of respect, love, of mutual nurturing and cooperation are not valid if they are merely written on paper, and come to life only by engaging people in flesh-and-blood and becoming part of their lives and being called "Pare."

Thus, coincidentally, to observe the strength of the true American love in the likes of Aaliz who found new sacrifice but fulfillment in living in a state has learned on the present side of an attitude, even a policy.

Comments: rcpangalangan@mail.com

Politics of violence

ANALYSIS

Antonnely Davinnila

FOUR DECADES, THE ENTIRE NATION DIDN'T have an agonizing reappraisal of its gory history, did neither during the past 36 years by holding mass events that took place on the same day, Aug. 21, but 12 years apart from each other: the grenade bombing of the Liberal Party election rally held in 1971, and the murder of opposition and ex-Sanbeni Sen. Benigno Aquino in 81 1983.

These were indeed not only grisly, outrageous history and the means of democratic political competition like its other events during the past 40 years did, not excluding the proclamation of martial law by President Ferdinand Marcos in 1972, because they were interlocked in incredible carnage.

The Plaza Miranda bombing nearly wiped out the entire senatorial slate of the opposition Liberal Party in the 1971 election. But its major consequence of the bombing was to convince dialogue it reminded on the democratic political contest. It was the last election in which the opposition was to enjoy the potential ability. And it irreversibly damaged the two-party system that had established political competition since independence, and paved the way for the declaration of martial law in 1972. The bombing was pivotal in the climax of the rise of the Philippine state authoritarian rule of the 1970s. The bombing forever ended Plaza Miranda as the Philippine people's forum for freedom of expression and dissent, non-violent dissent.

The assassination of August 21 years after the bombing was the bookends event for the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship and for the march back to democratic rule. It dismissed the only credible opposition alternative to Marcos since the carnage of Plaza Miranda. It was Aquino, who was set in the rally who was left to carry on the fight for the opposition until he was murdered.

Aquino's assassination catalyzed the People Power Revolution of February 1986. But ironically while the Plaza Miranda bombing and the Aquino assassination were bloody, the opposite of bombing and the Aquino assassination were bloody, the opposite of bombing and the Aquino assassination were bloody, the opposite of

Did Ninoy die for the Filipino in vain?

LETTERS

"Brother Ninoy need not be idealized, or enlarged in death beyond what he was in life. He should be remembered simply as a good and brave man, who saw wrong and tried to right it, saw suffering and tried to heal it.... Those of us who loved him, and who remember him in this our today, pray that what he was to us and what he wished for others will someday come to pass for all Humanity."

AS HE OBSERVED LAST AUG. 21 the death anniversary of our beloved Benigno Aquino Jr., I could not help but recite those lines (taken from the magnificent eulogy of Ex Sen. Edward Kennedy for his dear brother Bobby) and dedicate them to the very own brother Hines who was killed by an assassin's bullet while he was debarking from a China Airlines plane as he returned from exile 19 years ago.

Despite several warnings that he might be killed if he set foot on Philippine soil, Ninoy did not lose trust in destiny. Neither was this true in Socrates. Neither was this true in Socrates. Neither was this true in Socrates

Dr. Vicente Resreta, Administrative Chairman of the Department of Radiology examines a patient using LOGIQ 9.

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'By, Aylabyu,' fallen lieutenant texted girlfriend …

Front page 4 ▸

could happen, and I remember myself telling him 'I love you' and telling him to make sure he did not get hit. He told her, " said Bernadette Gabriel, 25.

She was recalling a phone conversation she had with Ludwig shortly before he and his team were deployed in Maguindanao, Lanao del Norte and Sulu. Salvador apparently "texted" her moments before he "jumped off" for the last mission he would lead as company commander.

Gabriel was among the mourners who gathered at Malacañan Air Base on Monday night when the remains of 15 of the slain Marines were brought back to Manila.

Father also fought in Basilan

By her side was Ludwig's father, Jaime Salvador, a retired army captain who himself saw action in Mindanao in the 1970s against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Amid the grief that surrounded them, the elder Salvador managed to keep his military composure in the way he tried to make sense of his son's death.

"I fought in the same area where my son was killed and I remember the high ground. Either [the enemy] has the manpower to withstand with regular the government troops. I am also aware that the rebels still always have the advantage as far as mastery of the terrain is concerned," he said.

Jaime Salvador's father recalled how, during his tour of duty, he also lost many men because of "this same reason." He was then a platoon leader engaging

A LEGACY OF SERVICE: Army Capt. Jaime Salvador holds a picture of his son, 1st Lt. Ludwig Salvador, who was killed on Saturday along with 11 others near Tipo-Tipo, Basilan, the exact same place where the elder Salvador once fought the MNLF in the 1970s. EDDIE VILLANUEVA

MILF forces in Basilan led by Dery Sabpuddin, "who years later would become a congressman of the Muslim Mindanao group signed a peace agreement with the government.

'General' Salvador

Gabriel said Ludwig, even when they were still classmates at the Philippine Military Academy, "dreamed of becoming a general" and kept this dream alive by eventually enrolling in the Philippine Military Academy.

FITTING THE FIT: Bernadette Gabriel, girlfriend of slain Marine 1st Lt. Salvador, tries on dog at the Tanay Memorial Gardens in Tanay, Rizal, on Thursday.

"So the moment we [his classmates] learned that he was joined the PMA, we were already telling him 'general,'" she said.

But with Ludwig's career cut short by the latest military debacle in Basilan, "in my heart, he is already a general and his gallantry will always be commemorated and honored in the hearts of many," Gabriel said.

In other parts of the country, tributes not only from family members but entire communities continue to be held for the Marines killed in the Aug. 19 encounter.

Tribute to Soloven

In San Jose, South Cotabato, hundreds of residents on Wednesday night lit candles and lined the highway for a motorcade held in honor of 1st Lt. Erwin Soloven, 25.

Soloven was a member of PMA's Masaligsig ng Dangal ng Lahi (Mandala) Class of 2006 and the ninth San Joseño of the batch.

He was salutatorian of his grade school class, and graduated with honors from the Notre Dame of Marbel High School in Koronadal City. Before he entered the PMA, Soloven took up civil engineering at the Mapua Institute of Technology in Manila.

From the General Santos City International Airport, the cortege bearing Soloven's body stirred at the family residence at around 6:30 p.m., amid wails and weeping.

"The government should have sent to the battlefield experienced soldiers and not fresh graduates. I think it was a technical error," Soloven's father Rodrigo told reporters.

Mayor Antonio Ostreicher and Soloven "brought pride and honor" to the town, where realtor Quijano, Fuebel said a candlelight evening plaza for her son would be the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City.

"It will be a sacrifice to visit him all the way from Cagayan but we will go visit him there [at the Libingan], especially on [June 11]," she said.

The pilot's grandparents are also expected to arrive from Hawaii for the burial set on Aug. 30.

Palace to Senate: Drop 'Hello Garci' probe; work to pass 24 priority bills

Front page 4 ▸

The opposition said the conversations was evidence Ms. Arroyo stole the 2004 election. Mr. Arroyo has denied any wrongdoing. Her allies in Congress killed two opposition attempts to impeach her last year.

Even before the Senate could resume whether the wiretapping "Hello Garci" probe as a committee of the whole, Senate President Manuel Villar has already made the anticipated testimony of Jocbie second priority.

In a phone interview, Villar said that he was "personally positive" on whether the wiretapping scandal should be reopened.

"We will just let both sides debate on the issue and then probably vote on the matter. What is important is that we assure that this will not hamper our work in the Senate or distract us from our main line which is to legislate. My main concern is that we maintain our productivity, that is what we are going for," said Villar.

To keep the Senate on track in legislating urgent bills, Villar said the Hello Garci probe, if approved by the majority, would likely be conducted after reopening Congress sessions. Meetings are held from Monday to Wednesday after 3 p.m.

Thursday hearings

"This plate is already full, we might have to hold extra hours for this (Hello Garci), probably Thursdays," said Villar.

The Senate committee on rules will meet on Tuesday to discuss concerns raised by administration senators on the legal implications of playing the wiretapped conversation before voting on whether to convene the Senate committee of the whole to dig deep into the scandal.

Sen. Francis Escudero said the probe was unlikely to hamper the Senate's work on other pressing legislative matters. "It's just a matter of scheduling," he said.

Common legislative agenda

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita on Wednesday sought the Senate's cooperation in passing 24 measures approved as a "common legislative agenda" during the legislative-executive development advisory Council (Ledac) meeting in Malacañang two weeks ago.

Ermita cited the proposed P1.226-trillion national budget for 2008.

He said the Arroyo administration was on its way to achieving a balanced budget by next year with projected revenues of P1.226 trillion by 2008.

Ermita said the amendments of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act was also important because it could bring about lower electricity rates by promoting more competition in the power sector.

He said Senate swiftness of the Ledac would pass the way for the entry of Filipino nurses and health professionals to Japan.

Other priority bills

Ermita said the other priority bills included the long-term plan for senior citizens, the rationalization of the fiscal incentives system, reform of the land reform law, reflet penalties for election rubrics.

"The President is saying that we can probably use more of our time to pass these laws," said Ermita who also added that Malacañang would invite the Supreme Court Chief Justice to Hello Garci inquiry.

EO 464 bans government officials from testifying in congressional hearings without the President's approval. In spite of a Supreme Court ruling but year upholding the right of Congress to hold investigations in aid of legislation, Ermita said the order remained valid.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said the military should comply the planned Senate hearing. "I think they should refuse unless the Commander in Chief will allow it because the Supreme Court said the chain of command has to be followed," Gonzalez said.

Perjury

Also yesterday, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol said Dobie could be charged with perjury if he testified in the planned Senate hearing on the Hello Garci inquiry. He previously told a House panel that he was unaware of the wiretapping.

Apostol said the tapes that Dobie revealed in Lacson's privilege speech on Tuesday could not be used in any impeachment or criminal case.

"It cannot be used in any judicial, quasi-judicial, administrative and legislative body as that is a useless piece of evidence. I don't know how other people would like to use that as evidence," Apostol said.

Need corroboration

House Minority Floor Leader Rodolfo Fabregas of San Juan said the honorable Lacson's statements on Lacson's video-tape required corroboration by other witnesses or pieces of evidence if the opposition was to reinstate another joint congressional inquiry in the house.

"Frankly, I don't think his statements are compelling enough. There is no witness, source of corroboration," Zamora said. "He mentioned names. Let's go toward that direction and hear from them. This is the sort of corroboration that will greatly help," he added. With a report from Leila B. Salaverria and Germano Bordadora

2 farmers escape, seek SC protection from AFP

Front page 4 ▸

Brothers Raymond and Reynaldo Manalo petitioned the high court to issue an order ordering the latter to cease without the participation of the military or any law enforcement agency, according to the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) which is representing them.

The brothers also said they did not want to be placed under the Witness Protection Program (WPP) of the Department of Justice.

They urged the court to appoint an independent commission-a team from among its ranks or those of the retired justices to investigate Raymond's statement about his and Reynaldo's ordeal and investigate the various places where they had been detained.

The two sought a temporary restraining order and later a permanent injunction to prevent the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the defense secretary and the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) from arresting and detaining them and violating their constitutional rights.

FLAG's Jose Manuel Diokno said in a press conference the two escaped from detention in Pangasinan on Aug. 13 after being abducted in San Mateo, Rizal, on Feb. 15, 2006, and were tortured by the military. They escaped while their guards were having a drinking session, Diokno said.

Raymond said in his statement attached to the petition that while in Zambales, he and his brother saw and talked to two missing University of the Philippines students—Jhordyn Cadapan and Karen Empeno—who were also being kept by their captors. He witnessed the killing of the two students' companions whom he identified as Manuel Merino, he added.

Raymond said retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, Sgt. Raul Hiasio and other AFP officers were present or actively participated in their torture. He also identified some of their abductors as Cafgu members Michael, Madoing Paul and Nido de la Cruz, and Randy and Rudy Mendoza.

Leftist activities

From the questions asked of the brothers as they were being tortured, it appeared that they had been abducted because of their alleged involvement in leftist activities or the NPA, according to Diokno.

The Manalo family earlier filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus for the brothers' release, but the Court of Appeals ruled there was after the military denied having the brothers in its custody.

Diokno said FLAG saw it fit to ask for the "novel measures" in its petition to the Supreme Court, saying the danger to the two was "at its most critical level."

Supreme Court summit

Diokno also said the recent Supreme Court summit on extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances gave "encouragement" that the tortured would get no their prayers.

Another FLAG lawyer, Theodore Te, said that some of the measures the group sought were recommended during the summit.

"Without the protection of this court, they have every reason to believe they will be hunted down, abducted again or simply killed outright," the brothers' petition said.

"There is no government agency or entity that petitioners can work with their physical custody, other than this Court."

No precedent

The FLAG lawyers said in the petition that while there was no precedent in the issuance of the petition for the Manalo brothers, the Government had given the high court the "exclusive authority" to issue rules about the protection and enforcement of human rights.

The lawyers also asked the court to examine the places where the brothers had been kept incommunicado, which they said was prohibited by the Constitution.

The Manalo brothers were not presented to the media during the press conference because of safety concerns.

According to the petition, the brothers were subjected to beatings, hatched in urine, whipped with a chain with a barbed wire attached to its end, had water poured in their nostrils and made to eat rotten food. They were also warned that their families would be harmed if they escaped or revealed what had been done to them.

Raymond said he and Reynaldo were first brought to Fort Magsaysay Nueva Ecija, and learned their location after he initially escaped and asked the people whom he met. He was later recaptured.

Detention centers

He also said he and his brothers were brought to a detachment in Pinamal, San Ildefonso; and another one in Tarpaulin, San Miguel, Bulacan; Camp Tecson in San Miguel; a camp of the 24th Infantry Battalion in Infanta, Pangasinan; and a house in Zambales.

Raymond said Palparan talked to him while he was in detention, and that he knew who Palparan was because he had seen him on TV.

He said that while in detention, he saw Manuel Merino be tortured to death.

He said that while in detention, he saw Manuel Merino be tortured to death.

What Went Before

IN THE EARLY MORNING OF June 26, 2006, armed men seized two University of the Philippines students from their rented house in Maginoo, Bulacan, according to witnesses.

Abducted were Karen Empeño, 22, a sociology student doing research about the plight of Bulacan farmers, and Sherlyn Cadapan, 28, a human kinetics student and community organizer for the farmers group Alyansang Magbubukid ng Bulacan who was two months pregnant.

Witnesses said a farmer, Manuel Merino, was also taken as the two he tried to help the students.

The three were then made to board a private minivan and, according to a July 2006 report by the Asian Human Rights Commission, the jeep bore the plate number RTF-107.

The militant League of Filipino Students, of which Empeño was reportedly a member, accused Army soldiers of being behind the abduction.

Empeño and Cadapan's parents asked the Supreme Court to compel the military to release their daughters. Named as respondents in the petition for habeas corpus were retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, their commanding general at the 7th Infantry Division based in Nueva Ecija, Bulacan and Pampanga provinces, and the military officer of the Northern Luzon Command, and other military men.

On July 18, 2006, the high court ordered the military to present the victims on July 24. But military officials denied that they were holding the students.

Last April, Cadapan, accompanied by three women and a man, reportedly showed up at her mother-in-law's house to get some clothes. But Cadapan reportedly stayed quiet when asked by reporters questions about the identities of her companions. Cyrill L. Bonabesa, Jeannie Rosario

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Atienza opposes Puerto mining ban

By TJ Burgonio

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY JOSELITO ATIENZA yesterday said he would try to convince Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn to reverse a decision he made to ban all mining in the city, saying the ban would scare away foreign investors.

"He may send a wrong message to all—both LGUs and the investors in the country—that the Philippines is only for small-scale mining operations," Atienza said.

The country, he said, should "allow large-scale investments" so these could benefit the "ordinary folks."

"We don't want also to discourage investors in the mining industry because we want the common folks to benefit from the mining industry that is now developing in the country," he said.

He said he would call Hagedorn, a fraternity friend, to talk him out of his plans, as well as give him a "friendly reminder" that it's the small-scale mining here that destroy the environment.

"You can't just ban because the economy and the well-being folks will not benefit from this. There has to be a balance. We should not be biased (against) large-scale mining," he said.

Hagedorn declared Tuesday that he would not approve any of the 23 applications pending in his town ends in 2010, arguing overturn it by big mining firms to put up underground mining operations in the city.

Nickel deposits are found on the western coast of the city.

Atienza said that any local government should base any mining company if it's found to have violated standards, and not believe it could operate.

"If there is a violation then they should be prevented from continuing. But those abiding by the rules should be supported," he said.

Hagedorn made the statement on the same day that Atienza met with executives of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines in Hotel, and declared that only projects cleared by communities and local governments would be allowed to operate.

Atienza praised Hagedorn for his "genuine commitment to protect the environment," but warned that if the small-scale mining that destroys the environment.

"Generally, from our records, the problem now mainly from small-scale mining operations where the businessmen don't want to put up sophisticated and rather environmental protection equipment and facilities," he said.

If the small-scale mining up, evidence that are the subject of complainers from Church and nongovernmental organizations.

The large-scale mining operators, on the other hand, were "more careful about protection of their environment in connection with the guidelines set forth by their own permits."

But Hagedorn said he was steadfast in his decision to ban mining.

If the mining companies can show me a place with intact forest cover and without people have become wealthy and families of it's a massive mining operation, I might change my mind," Hagedorn told the Inquirer.

"The ugly sight of the denuded forests of Sta. Lourdes and the numerous mine tailings that we've stopped doing locally are only strengthens my resolve to oppose mining operations here in Puerto Princesa," he added.

Hagedorn said the recent concession of Puerto Princesa City into a highly urbanized charter city allowed it to be administratively independent of the provincial government and gave it the power over mining applications.

DENR opens door to bid to nullify land titles

BAGUIO CITY—THE REGIONAL OFFICE of the Environment and Natural Resources has given due course to a petition from urban poor groups that seeks the nullification of land titles issued in the city since the 1920s.

Fact-finding teams sent out by the DENR personnel legal services have been studying land documents after four urban poor associations in Baguio convinced them that most of the lands sold to them in Baguio was shoreline.

The neighborhood associations of Purok 8 Asin Road, Ucab-Ilalim, Bachanga and Chuntugo Hill, said the informal risk lives on human-made reclamation of the ports for group Abiged itself a ruling made in 2000 by Judge Fernando Vil Buscemos of the regional trial court here that declared that land here that reclaimed formerly from sea.

Wrong order

"Almost all of the city's lands have not been converted from forest lands or the titles that the government issued to private persons are actually void," Cabohol Santiago, Abiged lads have representative, said.

The petitioners acknowledged that their course is a "long shot."

"It may sound absurd that petitioners are involved (about parcels) of land, despite their lack of claims to question (these) (Pembroke titles on the basis that the subject lands are considered forest reserve ...) We groups feel is (they) intended petition to the DENR.

Academic

Some Baguio lawyers and several DENR-Cordillera officials said the groups' arguments may sound unusual but are academic in nature because most of the titles they are trouble claims back to 1922.

"You cannot negate 80 years worth of (pieces of) properties brought or sold in good faith," a government lawyer told the Inquirer on Wednesday.

The cities of Baguio and Olongapo are the only towns are involved as to the country.

This means that all Baguio lands are mentioned off to Indians, who under their claim by forwarding town was applicable (TENA).

But in an April 13 memorandum, Manuel Gerochi, DENR undersecretary for land management, ordered his agency's legal service to check the validity of the arguments.

The team is expected to meet several investigations in July according to officials to sort out the records.

No interest

But Santiago said only the groups showed up for the fact-finding inquiry. He said the groups did not want to antagonize landowners when they chose to oppose the petition.

He said the government has no interest but to oppose their titles. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer North Luzon

BATTLEGROUND

Children try to lead out mud from a dry play ground at an evacuation site in Barangay Sinsuyan near a camp of the terror group Abu Sayyaf in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan. Three children are among hundreds of villagers who were displaced by fierce fighters in armed getting caught in the crossfire as the army pursues an offensive against the Abu Sayyaf

P64-M food terminal worth waiting for, says exec

KIDAPAWAN CITY—THE CITY'S P64-million public transport terminal, funded partly by loans from the Asian Development Bank, started operations Saturday after five years of construction.

The terminal will serve as a drop-off point for agricultural produce from other parts of the province, according to officials.

Mayor Rodolfo Guintoyapan said "it was worth the wait."

"The (transport terminal) ... is an exemplary standard that can be compared to the transport terminals of the other major cities," he said during the inauguration ceremonies.

Guintoyapan said the delay in the completion of the terminal was caused by "necessary procedures that have to be followed."

He said they also have to buy the privately-owned 2.8 hectare land on, where the transport terminal now built on.

"We have to follow the auditing procedure and other major requirements set by the ADB like getting the terminated Compliance Certificate (ECC)," he said.

Guintoyapan said the city government was later able to secure a P47.4-million loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines through the technical assistance of ADB's Mindanao Basic Urban Service Sector Project (MBUSSP).

The MBUSSP has helped the Kidapawan LGU prepared feasibility study on the city and has assisted it to adopt a loan from the LBP" said Herman Ongkiko, executive director of MBUSSP Secretariat.

The feasibility study showed that the construction of the 10-hectare city transport Terminal was socially acceptable to the community and economically viable, according to Ongkiko.

In connection was later ordered by the Department of Interior and Local Government. Rolando Pinero, Inquirer Mindanao

S. Mindanao workers get allowance hikes

DAVAO CITY—WORKERS IN Southern Mindanao will get an additional cost of living allowance (COLA) instead of an increase in their minimum wage.

Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board privately issued Wage Order No. 11-14, which granted an additional P18 COLA per day to minimum wage earners in the Davao Region.

The new wage order effectively increased the monthly COLA to from P36 to P54.

Precinio Ligutom, director of the Department of Labor and Employment (DoLe) in Southern Mindanao, told reporters here on Wednesday that the wage board "unanimously agreed" to the new adjustment.

The board, which Ligutom also chairs, is composed of two representatives from the labor sector, two from the management sector and three from the government sector.

Labor unions have been asking the board to grant an average of P75 in additional pay to employees but the management sector has vigorously opposed it.

The P75 increase sought by moderate labor organizations was above half the wage increase proposed by militant groups.

Ligutom said it was the first time the wage board accepted as a unanimous decision.

Last year, labor representatives in the wage board expressed dissenting opinions against Wage Order No. 11-13, which mandated the P16 COLA for minimum wage earners.

Ligutom said the wage board still advised the new wage order to the National Wages And Productivity Commission (NWPC) for affirmation.

The additional COLA will take effect after the 15-day publication requirement.

Ligutom said the new wage order was granted based on the "orderly not contrast" and not on the living minimum wage of P224 per family in the Davao Region.

The "orderly not contrast," he explained, refers to a wage adjustment "most acceptable" to both employers and workers.

Merly Cruz, director of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for Southern Mindanao, said the DTI for years to determine if the granting of the COLA would have an impact on the prices of goods and the regional economy.

Jody Chavez, Inquirer Mindanao

Pampanga quarry workers receive pay hike

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—At least 270 quarry workers and seven supervisors of the Pampanga provincial government are getting salary increases of P120 and P175 daily, respectively, as the administration of Gov. Eddie Panlilio repented collecting P36.6 million in said taxes as of Aug. 21.

The salary grades of checkers, as field personnel who validate the authenticity of tax receipts, have been increased from 1 to 5, according to them to get P352 to negotiate, provincial administrator Quirino Dela said on Thursday.

Job hazards

These supervisors get a salary grade of 7, entitling them to earn P403 daily.

Dela said the pay increases came after the provincial board approved last week the Supplemental Budget presented by Panlilio.

The governor sought the additional salary for quarry workers, citing the hazards of their job and their having to work long hours.

Board Members Edna David and Ricardo Fabat of the environment committee supported the request after validating truck conditions in the field.

Anti-corruption

Panlilio is striking an increase in corruption by quarry workers to encourage them to refrain from collection of overloads at work.

The hospital's quarry special committee, which is led by a team of four former seminarians, has been fair at detecting signs of irregularities, incident reports showed.

In July it caused a mass hiking escapes in Mexico town. Also in July the committee fired a quarry checker after an investigation showed he had been receiving money from a trucker who avoided the ramps in Floridablanca town.

Four quarry checkers were suspended for accepting bribes by allowing drivers to pass through checkpoints without showing any receipt.

Comparison

The P36.6 million in road taxes represented 37 days of collections since July 2.

This surpassed the P36.2 million collected under former Gov. Mark Lapid in 2005, in same reporting interval.

Last Friday's preliminary meeting for quarry summit scheduled this week clarified the process and requirements in securing quarry permits and protect the areas' quarry sites.

These are bids by the recognized provincial mining organizations' (like) allies and bridges. Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

QUARRYING A golden Pampanga. A crane is loaded with sand from dried lahar spilled by Mt. Pinatubo.

Barangay, youth polls set Oct. 29

TAGUIG CITY—THE COMMISSION ON Elections (Comelec) will set into motion the election of village and youth council officials nationwide on Oct. 29.

Lawyer Jose Tito Sibulo, assistant election officer for Eastern Visayas, said the Comelec already issued Resolution No. 8094 on Aug. 6 setting the guidelines for the holding of the elections.

The last elections for village officials and officials of youth councils known as Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) were held June 15, 2002.

Candidates, according to Sibulo, have until Oct. 16 to file their candidacies. They have nine days to campaign.

"The campaign period is deemed sufficient ...," said Sibulo.

In Eastern Visayas, there are 4,391 barangays with a total 2.14 million registered voters for the last regular elections and 212,323 voters for the SK elections.

To be elected are chairs and eight councilors of barangays and chairs and eight councilors of SK.

An election period, during which there would be a gun and liquor ban, is to start Sept. 29 until Nov. 13.

A public works ban would cover projects in the village level.

Sibulo said the exercise was supposed to be non-political.

Earlier, the Department of Interior and Local Government in Eastern Visayas reminded barangay officials who are on their third term that they were no longer qualified to run.

Joey Gelbolingo, Inquirer Visayas

PA188MG

Filipino schoolchildren line up along the route of the funeral procession and wave their small flags as the hearse driver bearing the remains of Army 2nd Lt. Charlie Anthony Cuadro passes nearby. Cuadro was killed in action in Basilan.

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10

ROUNDUP

Dengue cases tavarra Laguna

SAN PABLO CITY—The provincial health office in Laguna reported 223 new dengue victims he logged, as a 35-percent increase compared to this July's figure.

As of this month, the total number of victims reported since January has increased to 848 from 625 in July, said Dr. Alberto Lagos, provincial health office chief.

Over the same period, the total number of dengue fatalities increased to 9, up to 2, from a total of 5 recorded in July.

The number of reported victims in other villages in Laguna also increased by 33 in two weeks, or a total of 466 victims from 116 on Aug. 3.

Ronaldo Puello Inquirer Southern Luzon

NFA to probe rice racket

SAN PEDRO, Cotabato Authority administrator Jesus P. Navarro has ordered the investigation of reports NFA rice had been diverted to black market in the Bicol Region.

In a statement, Navarro said he also suspended the operations of Bigmanong Bayan outlets that were believed involved in the diversion of rice.

Navarro said he would revoke the licenses of outlets that would be found involved in the diversion.

He also ordered NFA employees involved in the scam to be investigated.

"To take advantage of [these rogues] who take the poor as their rights and privileges, it's [unconscionable]. The Bigmanong Bayan is an exclusive NFA rice outlet that sells NFA rice at P18 per kg.

PMA exams scheduled

BAGUIO CITY—The Philippine Military Academy will conduct its annual entrance examination on Aug. 30 for the PMMA Class of 2012.

The qualifying exams will be conducted in 27 examination centers nationwide.

Commissioned qualified candidates will be provided with free college education and monthly stipend.

Application forms are free and available in the nearest military and police units.

Interested applicants can also apply through mail and online at http://www.pma.ph.

New DENR chief: Watch me

LAGUNA BLOCK CITY—Environment Secretary Lito Atienza said his critics are entitled to their opinion but that they should watch his words.

"They should just watch my words, and they will be happy," he said during a visit here Wednesday.

Earlier, environment groups, such as Greenpeace, called Atienza's appointment "tenuous."

But Atienza said he will prove his critics wrong.

The former Manila mayor said he will distribute his changes in the department but that he will make sure the new environment laws are all implemented.

"We will sort out the system, such as, this is source of permits in logging for example. We have to [implement] the laws of the land," he said.

Atienza said it is not difficult to protect the environment because "the DENR has the most laws to cover its mandate, 45 laws in all."

"I plan to implement all these laws to the letter," he said. *Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez Inquirer Mindanao*

Army continues mass grave search

DIMAO CITY—Soldiers, backed by forensic experts, unearthed on Aug. 10 the remains of two suspected victims of the communist purge here.

Col. Alan Arellano, commander of the 72nd Infantry Battalion, said the find gave new clue in Barangay Magkono. It yielded the skeletal remains of a woman believed to be that of Alexis Rubico.

Rubico, a member of the New People's Army's Bulanog contingent, was 16 years old when she disappeared with her boyfriend at the height of the communist purge in the 1980s.

In New Canaan Village, the remains of a "Ka Bert" was also exhumed from a shallow grave following tips from the town's Anabel cult.

He said the military was trying to locate "10 or more" graves belonging to rebels executed by their comrades on suspicion they were state agents. *Dennis Jay Santos Inquirer Mindanao*

AL FRESCO PRESSCON: President Arroyo raises questions from the media after she joined the soldiers' hostile fight during her visit with General Esperon (at right) to the 1st Marine Brigade headquarters in Tabuan, Isabela City, on Thursday. CAMERA ALC/PPD

GMA wants soldiers' combat pay increased

By Christine O. Avendaño

ZAMBOANGA CITY—To honor the "heroism" and professionalism" shown by her soldiers in recent clashes with the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao, President Macapagal-Arroyo is seeking an increase in their combat pay.

Ms Arroyo instructed officials to study the possibility of raising the combat pay of soldiers during a command conference here.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said that Ms Arroyo had instructed him and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. to coordinate with the Department of Budget and Management in making such a study.

P240 monthly since '80s

On top of other allowances, soldiers now get combat pay of more P3,0 a month. It was last increased in the early '90s, Esperon told reporters.

Esperon said that the Arroyo wanted the combat pay hike to happen soon and he officials to put in advance

From page A1

government to the peace process and the dialogues with the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) had agreed to withdraw from the combat zones to enable the military could pursue the Abu Sayyaf holdouts.

Troops told to be vigilant

He said that the MILF and the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) had agreed to withdraw from the combat zones to enable the military could pursue the Abu Sayyaf holdouts.

Teodoro also said Ms Arroyo reminded the police and military to continue to be vigilant "to prevent or thwart attempts by those who seem to derail the peace process and terrorists from exploiting the situation any further."

Ms Arroyo, who was present at the town conference with Teodoro, asked officials to clarify the situation of evacuees in Isulan and Basilan following the offensive, noting that the number of evacuees was not increasing.

"There have been all kinds of numbers coming out in the newspapers," Ms Arroyo said.

Making ASG 'ineligible'

Dr. Anthony Golez, spokesperson for the National Disaster Coordinating Council, said that 5,000 families, or around 20,000 people, had evacuated their villages in Isulan and Basilan to escape the clashes.

Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said the offensive against the Abu Sayyaf would make the bandits "ineligible" to ransom money.

"My intent that the Abu Sayyaf cannot conduct any (ransom) operations anymore," Esperon told reporters hours after the Arroyo gave the order to continue the offensive.

The second phase will involve developments offshore the province, he said.

Eighty more the military which has 4,000 troops in Basilan, was after 38 Abu Sayyaf fighters who were being ransomed by lawless armed elements, Esperon said.

Major strike hinted

Esperon hinted that a major military strike was in the offing. "We just watch, in a little while, we will be hitting again," he told reporters.

He said the military was "ready to hit" the enemy as he noted that since the July 18 ambush of Marine troops in which five were killed, the military had put in a "large presence" of troops in Basilan and had since "prepositioned" its forces.

In Zulu, Esperon said that both the military and police have been actively embracing the gun ban in the province and that areas have been designated where the MNLF could stay while the Abu Sayyaf was being pursued. Those are barangay Tuburan in Isulanan and barangay Tubig Piti in Lutak.

"Those outside these areas will be subject to interdiction operations," he said.

GMA flies to Basilan ...

From page A1

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Eating with bare hands

Using their bare hands, Ms Arroyo and her officials joined the 1st Marine Brigade in a feast of carabao—a local crab—rice and pinch.

The soldiers downed the delicacies with the bare hands with them, according to Task Force Thunder chief, Brig. Gen. Anania Nabiua.

"High morale daw," Ms Arroyo reportedly told her soldiers. "Thank you for fighting terrorists."

Out of shadow of death, emerged the nationalist

From page A1

nor coat's character and commitment in duty and purpose.

For how else can anyone describe the story of a man who dared tangle with the atom troopers of a foreign invader, speak the truth to a hostage-ruler deposed, and fearlessly eat the ripe chat bonds that nature land to a brittle existence?

It all began simply in the village of Pulo, now known as San Miguel, in Bulacan City, where he was born in June 22, 1908, the youngest of five sons to spouses Esteban Salonga and Bernardina Reyes.

Married in 1939, at the onset of American rule, Esteban and Bernardina were early converts to Protestantism. A Presbyterian minister who did not drive any salary, Salonga's father depended on the charity of his flock to provide for his family's needs. Salonga's mother, whom he describes as a woman of great faith," would later sell produce in the village market to help earn a living.

Barefooted

"I can't recall any single event of my childhood years which stands out as the most memorable. But I do recall how poor we were," he writes in his memoir, "Journey of Struggle and Hope." "We often had scrapes in small fish for breakfast, sprigs for lunch and sprigs for dinner."

One memory he retains very well, however, was when his mother brought him to attend the first day of classes in the town's public elementary school.

"I was the only one barefoot," says Salonga. Six years later, he remained unfazed in a class photo taken of his graduating class, which is dominated gave him while he was campaigning for a congressional seat in 1961. He kept this picture to remind him of the hard times he and his family went through early on in his life.

In time, parents in during the long summer breaks from school, Salonga and his siblings found ways to support their parents. Hard work, initiative, and perseverance became the first lessons that Salonga learned in his youth. He kept these lessons in mind and drew strength from in his later encounters with his beyond the confines of Pulo.

Restlessness

His years in high school though were mired by episodes of restlessness. He admits to having fallen in with the "wrong company and began noticing girls" in his third year which led him to skip classes. Salonga later regained his focus with the help of an American teacher who taught English literature in his senior year.

In 16, Salonga began his pre-law studies at the Pedro Faura campus of the University of the Philippines in realize his dream of becoming a lawyer and politician. He had chosen to become one when he was only 12 while watching, with his father and brothers, a film about the Speaker Manuel Quezon of the Philippine Assembly, arguing for independence from American colonial rage in Pasig.

"I was held spellbound by this man who spoke of our people's yearning for independence and freedom," he says of Roxas. "There was no public address system in that time, but his voice, his diction, his gestures, and his stage presence impressed me no end."

Salonga completed his pre-law course while working as a proofreader in the publishing company of his eldest brother. He entered the UP College of Law where he earned medals as a debater and student leader.

War breaks out

While preparing for the bar exams, Salonga underwent his first encounter with the methods of war. Between the United States and Japan on Dec. 7, 1941. With the US retreat to Australia, the Japanese Imperial Army occupied Manila.

Appalled by Japanese military abuses and atrocities and wanting to honor the morals of his compatriots, he went underground and waged his own propaganda war against the new foreign overlords.

It did not take long before the Japanese, with the help of neighbor Daniel Quisumbing, caught up with the 33-year-old freedom fighter. By this time, his barrio had become a stronghold of remnants of the anti-American Hukbalahap movement which became the core of the pro-Japanese Makapili.

In April, 1942, the Japanese kempeitai captured Salonga and, in the presence of his father, tortured him in an admitting his partisan activities.

"I thought I'd be sentenced to a severe penalty but the Japanese interpreter, who was familiar to me, because I used to see him in the University of the Philippines, must have told the tribunal composed of high-ranking Japanese something that moved them and made them decide that due to extreme youth, I should be sentenced only to 15 years of hard labor instead of the death penalty, which I expected," he recalls in his memoirs.

Salonga was subsequently imprisoned at Fort Bonifacio and at the Misamis Oriental provincial jail in Cagayan de Oro City. He was transferred to the Misamis prison where he stayed until his release on Feb. 11, 1945. He was among those paroled by the Japanese on the occasion of Rizal Day, Japan's Benevolent Day.

LIKE A HERO! In a Greek epic as Salonga continues his journey of 67 years or so

Bar topnotcher

Placed under surveillance by the kempeitai, Salonga focused on studying for the bar exams in August 1944 which he topped with Jose W. Diokno, with a grade of 91.3 percent.

By the time independence was granted to the Philippines by the United States on July 4, 1946, Salonga had begun the practice of law. But this was interrupted by his acceptance to graduate studies at Harvard Law School, and later on, his pursuit of a doctorate at Yale Law School. There he met Jose "Kerry" Laurel, son of wartime President Jose P. Laurel, who later became his law partner upon their return to the Philippines.

In January, Salonga married Lydia Hontiveros, a law months before his graduation from Harvard in July 1946. She returned to the Philippines earlier and gave birth to their first-born, Esteban Hernando.

Soon after his return to Manila in 1946, Salonga would get his first taste of politics by helping the candidacy of Jose P. Laurel against the incumbent Elpidio Quirino during the 1949 presidential elections. Quirino's victory was contested by Laurel who eventually accepted defeat rather than risk a bloody uprising by his angry followers.

Illicit politics

At 33, Salonga himself learned the hard way how politics was being played by the dynastic elite. A twelve-year-old Ferdinand Marcos, son of close friend Mariano Marcos, who had not yet passed exclusion for the second congressional district because of ill health.

In 1961, he would get a chance to run again for the position that had been his. This time, after alliance and convenience between the rival political clans had broken up. Under the Liberal Party banner, Salonga won by a convincing margin over his established opponents, his nine had come.

Salonga was drafted to run by the LP for the Senate in the 1963 elections with incumbent President Diosdado Macapagal of the LP facing the erstwhile partymate, now Nacionalista contender, Ferdinand Marcos.

While pre-election surveys showing him a distant 11th, Salonga got the surprise of his life by topping the race for the eight Senate seats at stake. Sharon Jose Macapagal.

Salonga ran for re-election and made it once more to the Senate in 1971, only after surviving the deadly bombing of the LP-rating de mentor in Plaza Miranda which rendered him almost incapacitated.

Greater dangers lay ahead.

Martial law

On Sept. 21, 1972, Marcos declared martial law, padlocked Congress, and began his authoritarian rule which would last until his ouster 14 years later by a civilian-backed military uprising led by his closest lieutenants and the wife of his murdered arch rival, Benigno Aquino Jr.

Salonga spent the martial law years on under operations in Bicutan but was jailed for four years on accusations of leading a bombing campaign against the dictatorship. Released in 1980, he was granted a medical pass for treatment of wounds in the US, which he had suffered during the 1971 Plaza Miranda bombing.

Returning in 1985, two years after the assassination of Aquino, Salonga became part of the expanding opposition movement that eventually forced Marcos to call for a snap presidential election in 1986.

Asked why he had persisted in his struggle against Marcos, he replied: "You see I'm affected by probably by the religion I have, my father was a Presbyterian minister, and I grew up in poverty ... and this probably stirred my thinking. When I see injustices being committed against the poor, against the marginalized, I react immediately," he explains in an interview.

After the fall of Marcos, Salonga became the first chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) which was tasked by the Aquino Cocuzon regime to recover the billions of pesos plundered by the Marcoses and their cronies in the heyday of their strongman regime.

Greatest challenge

He was drafted again to run for the Senate in the 1987 elections which the administration either won 22-3, with Salonga topping the race anew.

As Senate President, he faced up to the greatest challenge of his life by causing the vote ending the ouster of Philippine bases between the Philippines and the United States in Sept. 16, 1991.

Explaining to a packed hall his vote against extending the stay of US military bases in the country, Salonga's last words were: "I have been warned by well-meaning friends that my action on this many may hurt my chances of becoming President. Be assured That is an insignificant consequence. At times of great crisis, our martyrs and heroes offered their lives that our people might become truly free.

"I, accordingly, will not vote to renew the treaty. I believe and I will say it again. After walking through the valley of the shadow of death twice in my life, (this and positions do not mean that much to me anymore. What is more important is to be of real service to our people, with or without any position in government."

Daily struggle

After his term ended in 1992, Salonga founded the civil society groups Ellinkayan and Kamayugan which have tried the opposition to manifest attempts to reverse the democratic gains of 1986.

He as Salonga points out: "Independence, like freedom, is never granted, it is always asserted and affirmed. Its defense is an everyday endeavor—sometimes even to the death—as in the case of conflicting wills and ideas. It is a daily struggle that may never end—for as long as we live."

At age 87, Salonga has yet to write finis to his own epic. There is no doubt however that there will be more fine chapters in the life of a man who has spent his life in struggle to realize peace and prosperity for his people and nation.

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Student dies after fall from condo

Probers search for clues; family mum

By Tina G. Santos

A 19-YEAR-OLD STUDENT OF THE DE LA SALLE University (DLSU) died after he fell from the 18th floor of a condominium building in Manila late Wednesday afternoon.

SPO4 Danny Halad of the Manila Police District homicide division identified the victim as Wilfredo Tanaghamo, a business management student of DLSU and resident of Sunset Condominium on Taft Avenue corner P. Ocampo Street, Malate.

The victim sustained fractured bones and skull and internal contusions in different parts of his body, police said.

According to police investigations, the accident took place around 4 p.m.

Quoting building security guards, police said a loud thud came from outside.

The guards who rushed where the noise came from, saw around the bloodied body of the victim sprawled on the concrete pavement. Since the body was partially burnt, police theorized the victim could have hit highvoltage electrical wires before falling to the ground.

That would explain the power failure before the victim's body was discovered, police said. Police and the family of the victim refused to talk to newsmen.

In a separate incident, four students were seriously injured after a pillbox allegedly hurled by members of a rival gang exploded inside their car Wednesday night in Manila.

The victims were identified as Angelo Dimaz, 22; Viktor Sarza, 22; and Emiliano Pantaleon Jr., 19, all students of Perpetual Help University and Jay Christopher Mabasa, 23, of the University of the East.

Police said the victims were on board a car and were travelling along Lawton Loop Street when they found themselves in the middle of a fight between two groups of teenagers. One group apparently threw a pillbox that hit the car, police said.

The explosion occurred despite checkpoints and tight security measures in Metro Manila to prevent attacks by elements of the Abu Sayyaf group.

(RE)GREENING OF ARROCEROS
Members of the environmental group Wiwasar Foundation plant a tree on the Pasig River side of a stagnant lake to be known as Forest Park in Manila in an attempt to restore the city's "last lung."

MMDA to appeal ruling vs closure of bus terminals

By DJ Yap

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority (MMDA) will appeal the Supreme Court ruling barring it from enforcing a presidential directive closing down bus terminals along busy thoroughfares.

In a reversal of its original position, the agency said yesterday it would ask the high court to reconsider its Aug. 15 ruling nullifying Executive Order 179 directing the MMDA to implement the Greater Manila Transport System project.

The order issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2003 mandated the agency to close down bus terminals to pave the way for the establishment of mass transport terminals and to help ease Metro traffic. Earlier, MMDA chair Bayani Fernando said he was not aware that there was a directive from the President to close down bus terminals. He said the plan to set up centralized bus terminals was not aimed at phasing out existing ones on major roads.

But in a statement yesterday, MMDA chief legal counsel Emmanuel de Guzman acknowledged the existence of the directive as he said they would seek a reversal of the SC ruling.

De Guzman said the Supreme Court might have overlooked provisions of Republic Act 7924, which partly amended and augmented the Public Services Act. The law gives the MMDA authority over transport and traffic management.

DID YOU KNOW

WITH THE RECENT conversion of San Juan and Mandaluyong into highly urbanized cities, Pateros is now the only municipality in the National Capital Region. Apart from San Juan and Navotas, there are 14 cities in Metro Manila. SOURCE: Merchants Inquirer Research

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METROBRIEFS

Robbers' targets in QC

TWO QUEZON City Police District has identified at least seven areas flanking with robbery gangs preying on pedestrians and commuters. CIDG spokesperson Supt. Arsenio Cabata said robbery incidents occur most often in Araneta Avenue, Quezon Ave., Maginoo Ave., Aurora Boulevard, Commonwealth Ave., E. Rodriguez Ave. and Tandang Sora Ave. The newly created Task Force Lito Boulevard, composed of seven members and police teams from different police stations, is expected to reduce the incidence of such cases in these areas.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Navotas green drive

THE NAVOTAS City government and the Armed Forces of the Philippines National Capital Region Command (NCRCOM) yesterday teamed up to proceed in the locality as a green zone. NCRCOM commander Major Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino and Mayor Tobias Tiangco led the launching rites at City Hall. Members of the 202nd Base Reserve Squadron and the 204th Base Reserve Group of the Marine Corps have been tapped to lead the city's green campaign.

Jeannette I. Andrade

No role models

TWO MANDALUYONG City policemen, Joselito Plaza Jr. and Ferdinand Fernandez, are facing perjuries and dismissal from service after they were arrested for petty crimes in two separate incidents in the city. Held up and robbed, charges will be filed against Plaza, police said. Fernandez was apprehended for allegedly threatening his neighbors and using his gun on them.

Rosalie T. Alane

Lim promises 50-year lease to Museo Pambata

By Allison W. Lopez

MANILA'S OF ALL SEASONS seemed a mere "wholesome" form of entertainment on Roxas Boulevard for at least 50 years more after Mayor Alfredo Lim promised yesterday a new five-decade lease for the Museo Pambata, the country's first interactive museum for children.

Lim, who recently dismantled Bonifacio's bars and restaurants, told a cheering audience, "How long do you want the Museo Pambata extended? I leave it up to you to decide how long you want to stay here ... I'll sign it with eyes closed." But when Museo president Nina Lim Pascual sighed she wanted it "forever," the mayor laughed and said he would not put "forever" in the contract, he would write down 50 years instead.

"In reverse that is perpetual already. I will not be here for 50 years more," the 77-year-old mayor said with a broad smile.

It was in 1993, during his previous term as mayor when Lim allowed the historic tiles building to be converted into the pioneering children's museum.

More 13 years old, Museo Pambata has entertained almost three million visitors through its seven "hands-on" theme rooms, a department from the usual "hands off" policy of most museums.

At the beginning of the Museo's new annex, building yesterday, Nanu called Lim one of their heroes, thanking him for his continued support. The three-story structure would house the administrative offices and the children's library and resource center.

It was built with the support of the City of Manila, the UCom Foundation in Singapore, and the Leandro V. Locsin Partners.

KEY TO FOOD HEAVEN: Sign of a roast chicken outlet in Kamuning, Quezon City.

Cabbies get legal aid vs abusive passengers

By Kaz T. Dishmaka

THE LAND TRANSPORTATION Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) is offering legal assistance to taxi drivers who become victims of abusive passengers.

The offer was made following a case involving former basketball star Paul "Bong" Alvarez.

The former Philippine Basketball Association player is facing physical injury charges for allegedly attacking two people. One of the complainants is taxi driver Wilfredo Cabaddi.

ARGUING reporter Gutchee Mahilel dac-dagsil Alvarez is allegedly making her ride the wrong one-way street in Cubao.

LTFRB chair Thompson Lao said drivers who would be abused could ask their operators to alert the agency if they wanted to file cases in court.

"Our agency has always been open to giving legal advice when they are involved in accidents, but we many drivers know that they can also seek assistance against abusive passengers," he said.

Lao also said that while the agency did not tolerate such drivers, it would help cabbies victimized by passengers.

"The lives of taxi drivers are always at stake while on the job," he said. "Their lives strangers who may not have good intentions. It is only fair that we help them."

'MJ's son may be deported'

By DJ Yap

THE SON OF FORMER MANILA DEP. Mark Jimenez could be deported to the United States and disbarred for meddling in Jimenez's legal dispute with his estranged partner Carol Castañeda-Jimenez.

Bar Virgilio Crespo said Frank Chavez, a former solicitor general, did not have his facts straight, saying he was a Filipino citizen though he practiced law under the American bar.

Chavez's comments about Crespo were made yesterday in reaction to Jimenez's son's statement that his stepmother was thinking of seeking the disbarment of the former solicitor general and his colleagues in the Chavez Miranda and Aseoche law office.

"He does not know what he is talking about. If there is anybody who should be disbarred, it is he," Chavez told the Inquirer. He added that disciplinary proceedings against Crespo were already in the works, though it would be up to Jimenez to pursue them.

The lawyer said Crespo should be deposed for "meddling in some cases where he's not a party." Chavez also accused Crespo of related violations, which, he said, could be grounds for disbarment.

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BCDA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY

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DAMPE SERVICE AREA OF THE SUBIC-CLARK-TARLAC EXPRESSWAY

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested oil companies to participate in the resumption of the bidding for the privatization and development of the approximately 4,214 hectares Dampe Service Area of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (Sta. 21+730 Subic-bound).

Interested oil companies should submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and must purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the disposition that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable the oil company to participate in the bidding for the privatization.

The TOR for the disposition will be ready for distribution to interested proponents from 28 August to 07 September 2007 at the BCDA Corporate Center. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is Php 20,000.00 payable to the BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A conference among interested oil companies is tentatively set on 07 September 2007, at 10:00 a.m., at the BCDA Corporate Center. The objective of the conference is to discuss the Property, the TOR, and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

VICTOR V. ZABLAN
Chairman, Special Bids and Awards Committee
Bases Conversion and Development Authority
BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St.
Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Email Address: bacbids@bcda.gov.ph or bacsecretariat@bcda.gov.ph

or they can contact Ms. Bambie L. Andal or Mr. Hosmer A. Marroyo at telephone numbers 816-6808 loc. 125 and 816-1943.

(Sgd.) VICTOR V. ZABLAN
Chairman, Special Bids and Awards Committee

Bush reverses self, now says Iraqi PM 'a good guy'

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine, US President George W. Bush, scrambling to shore his still feeble standing, said Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, offered him a fresh endorsement, calling him "a good guy, good man with a difficult job."

"I support him," Bush said Wednesday, a day after he acknowledged frustration with the Iraqi leader's inability to bridge political divisions in his country. "It's not up to the politicians in Washington, D.C., to say whether he will remain in his position. It is up to the Iraqi people who now live in a democracy and not a dictatorship."

Bush's validation of Al-Maliki, in some of the last minute jots in his speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention on Wednesday, stole the spotlight from Bush's attempt to bolster support for the war by likening today's fight against extremists to past conflicts in Japan, Korea and Germany.

Bush's speech—and another one this week Tuesday—are intended to set the stage for a congressional and month-on-the progress of the fighting and reignite political reconciliation in Iraq. Democrats in the US Congress and many Republicans are pressing to start the withdrawal of US forces.

On Thursday, US intelligence agencies will issue a new assessment expressing doubt that Al-Maliki's government can overcome sectarian divisions or meet benchmarks to unseal embattling political unity. The New York Times reported in its weekend Wednesday night. The report—based on unidentified officials.

Arguing that the buildup of US forces was showing results, Bush said, "Our troops are seeing this progress. They're being made on the ground. And so they take the initiative from the enemy, they have a position. Will Osti elected leaders, in Washington pull the rug out from under their feet as they're gaining momentum and changing the dynamic on the ground in Iraq?"

Comparing Iraq with earlier wars, Bush said, "The question we must believe as comes down to this: Will today's generation of Americans accept the deceptive allure of retreat and do in the Middle East what events in this room did in Asia?"

Bush had expressed on Tuesday to be distancing himself from the Iraqi leader when he said at a North American summit in Canada: "Clearly, the Iraqi government's got to do more." The White House denied Bush was backing away from Al-Maliki, but it was bittersweet talk, distinct compared with Bush calling Al-Maliki "the right guy for Iraq" last November in Jordan.

Al-Maliki, on a trip to Syria, despite injured the US embassy. He said no one has the right to impose timetables on his elected government, and that they can "find friends elsewhere." Without naming any American official, Al-Maliki said some criticism of Iran and his government in recent days had been "disconcerting."

On Monday, Senate Armed Services Committee Chair Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat, urged Iraq's Parliament to oust Al-Maliki and replace his government with a more unifying one. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, the 2008 Democratic presidential front-runner, echoed Levin's call on Wednesday. Clinton said Iraqis should find a "broader vision and more unifying figure."

Iraq is so divided along sectarian and ethnic lines, however, that there is doubt as to whether any other politician could do a better job.

AP

BUSH AP

Out-of-body experiences not so outlandish

CHICAGO—PEOPLE WHO CLAIM to have had out-of-body experiences may not be kooky or high, just a little disembodied, according to a study released Thursday suggesting that such events can be explained scientifically.

The supposition comes from a group of neuroscientists who were able to manipulate a group of perfectly healthy volunteers into thinking they had stayed outside their physical bodies by distorting their perception of touch.

Using virtual reality goggles to mix up the sensory signals reaching the brain, they induced the volunteers into projecting their consciousness into a virtual body.

The illusion was so strong that the volunteers reacted with a palpable sense of fear when their virtual selves were threatened with physical harm.

The findings suggest there may be a scientific explanation for these types of out-of-body experiences, which are often thought of in delusional or paranormal.

"Brain dysfunction that interferes with interpreting sensory signals may be responsible for some classical cases of out-of-body experiences," said Olaf Blanke, a neuroscientist formerly of University College London, and now at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

"Though, whether all out-of-body experiences arise from the same causes is still an open question," he added.

About one in 10 people claim to have had an experience in which they are awake and viewing their own body from a location outside their physical selves.

The phenomenon has been associated with traumatic experiences such as car accidents and linked to compromised brain function in epileptics, drug addicts and stroke victims, but scientists have never been able to determine what is actually going on.

The finding that you can induce a person to project themselves into a virtual world has interesting implications, Blanke said.

AFP

BCDA

BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to submit proposals for the privatization and development of the 1.2-hectare Expanded Big Delta Lots located in the Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the privatization and development of the property that outlines, among others, the requirements, procedures, methodology and criteria for evaluation and selection of proposals.

The TOR shall be made available to the interested proponents starting August 28, 2007 at a non-refundable cost of Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP50,000.00), payable to BCDA in cash or manager's check.

A Pre-bid Conference among interested proponents shall be held on September 10, 2007, 2:00 p.m., at the BCDA Operations Conference Room, BCDA Corporate Center, 2nd Floor Bonifacio Technology Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. The objective of the Pre-bid conference is to discuss the property, the TOR and other issues that may be raised by interested proponents.

Interested proponents may direct their inquiries to Ms. Aileen An. R. Zosa or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 816-6666 loc 118 or 124 or at: arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or blandal@bcda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **VICTOR V. ZABLAN**
Chairman, ADP-3 Committee

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Casino

Rare street protests jolt Burma junta

BANGKOK—RARE PROTESTS AGAINST A MASsive hike in fuel prices have alarmed the ruling junta of Burma (also known as Myanmar), recalling the early days of a 1988 uprising that toppled the previous military regime, analysts said.

Reports of the street unrest, with protesters defying stiff warnings from the junta's rally three times within a week, have made headlines around the world, driving a spotlight on the reclusive regime.

"They are always worried when there are 100 people a time and that's the limit, it shaking," said Burma analyst Aung Naing Oo.

"They should be worried, because what we are seeing is a similar event to the precursor to the '88 uprising," he said.

Angered by fuel price rise that doubled transport costs overnight, about 500 people joined a first march Sunday led by the pro-democracy 88 Generation Students group in the northern outskirts of Rangoon (Yangon).

At least 13 leaders of that march were arrested in overnight police raids Tuesday, but it failed to stop another 100 people staging a new march the next day.

That was followed by another rally Thursday, when about 40 people took to the streets before riot police hauled away the activists (Turn to Page A15, Col. 1)

The government rarely admits to arrests of political prisoners, but in an unusual move some junta officials detailed the details of the detentions just hours later.

Analysts agree it is too soon to say if this week's protests will snowball into anything bigger, but clearly the junta has been set on edge.

"They are worried, that's why they made an announcement in the newspaper," said Burma analyst Min Zin. "They are worried it will lead to a bigger demonstration like in '88. They are paranoid."

The 88 Generation Students group is made up of people who led the earlier uprising, which also gave rise to Suu Kyi, the Asia's pro-democracy party. She has spent most of the last 17 years under house arrest.

The 1988 unrest began in protest against the skyrocketing cost of living, but later took on political overtones with demands for an end to the military dictatorship of the day.AFP

DEMONSTRATORS march to protest against a massive hike in fuel prices in Rangoon on Aug. 23, recalling the early days of a 1988 uprising that toppled the previous military regime. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Georgia says Russia violated airspace anew

TBILISI—Georgia on Wednesday accused Russian military jets of violating the airspace for a second time this month, but Russia said its aircraft had been confined near Georgian frontiers. Calm just inside the disputed Abkhaz region, after it had witnessed a Russian jet re-dropping a missile in a former's territory for two days, is an incident that worsened already tense relations between the ex-Soviet neighbors.

Reuters

Bangladesh government imposes curfew

DHAKA, Bangladesh—Declaring the curfew of seven months of martial-backed rule, violent clashes between students over the political and the government to impose a nationwide curfew on Wednesday night in six of the country's six port cities, in a return of the political instability that prompted a caretaker government to take power in January. The leader of the caretaker government, Fakhruddin Ahmed, said Wednesday in a televised address that the administration was compelled to impose an indefinite curfew and shoot colleagues and protesters in the country to "protect public life and property as well as stop illegal activities." Mobile phone networks were also closed down.

AFP

'Chemical Ali threw my sons from chopper'

BAGHDAD—A witness on Thursday accused "Chemical Ali," Saddam Hussein's cousin and former top henchman, of killing her sons by throwing them out of a helicopter during the crushing of an Iraqi Shiite rebellion. The mother, giving testimony in the trial of 11 Saddam aides accused of crimes against humanity over the brutal suppression of the 1991 rebellion in southern Iraq, vented her fury against Ali Hassan al-Majid, widely known as "Chemical Ali." The witness said the victims saw the island against the 11 defendants whom prosecutors allege oversaw the killing of up to 100,000 Shiites as Saddam's troops turned on them after their defeat at the hands of the US-led coalition forces in Kuwait in the first Gulf War.

Ali Hassan al-Majid

AFP

Israel to buy advanced Patriot missiles

JERUSALEM—The Israeli Air Force is to buy advanced US-made missiles capable of intercepting aircraft and long-range ballistic missiles, to upgrade the current air defense system, a report said on Thursday. The Defense Ministry said it would buy the PAC-3 missiles, which will replace the PAC-2 currently in use, incapable of intercepting missiles unmanned by the Syrian, the Wall Street Journal said, citing unnamed sources.

AFP

France seeks an active role in Iraq

PARIS—After years of shunning involvement in a war it said was wrong, France now believes that it may hold the key to peace in Iraq by positioning itself as an "honest broker" between the Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish factions there. French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said the time had come for France, and Europe, to play a greater role in Iraq. "I believe this is the moment. Everyone knows the American are not be able to get this country out of difficulty alone," Kouchner he said. The shift was one of the most since the region gets of the Bush to French American relations after the election victory of President Nicolas Sarkozy, whose administration no longer feels bound by the Chirac to play a role in Iraq.

AFP

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Out-of-sync UE Warriors scramble past Bulldogs

By Jeanlaire W. Paye

AT THEIR WORST, THE UNIVERSITY OF THE East Warriors still managed to come out on top.

The unbeaten Warriors survived a season-high 27 turnovers and recovered with a 70-66 decision over the winless Adamson Bulldogs in the UAAP men's basketball competition yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Paul Zúñiga and Rodney Santiago combined in the last 21 seconds as the Pursuit stayed off a Bulldogs' rally to clinch their 10th straight victory.

"We played well, we played hard," said UE coach Dindo Pumaren. "We committed too many turnovers. Our second and our second wasn't there, our focus was not there."

Zúñiga, the hero in the Warriors' last victory over the Manila Tornado Tigers, scored on a putback and converted one-for-two free throws to lift the Warriors up at 67-66 with 21.2 seconds remaining.

Santiago, who drained nine of his 14 points in the final period, converted three free throws in the last 6.1 seconds to clinch the ballgame as their 10th loss in nine games.

The Warriors remained three wins ahead of the second-running La Salle Green Archers, who crushed the Adamson Falcons, 75-55, in the first game for a 7-3 record.

Veteran guards JV Casio and TY Tang moved as the Archers got off to a 20-8 start and a high 51.5-percent shooting clip as the first half.

The Bulldogs, who dropped to sixth place, rose from a 58-66 deficit with 1:16.9 remaining anchored on Jonathan Fernandez as the last two minutes.

A Michael Salvado layup capped the scramble that pushed the Bulldogs ahead, 66-65, with 30.1 seconds left.

But the Bulldogs missed their attempts and were consigned an inbound infraction with 5.9 ticks left.

After Dax Cabasosa missed two attempts at the point, Santiago grabbed a rebound released and sealed the win with two baskets, 69-66, with 6.1 seconds remaining.

With the Silverio's unimpressive performances, the game almost resulted like a re-massage for La Salle coach Franz Pumaren.

Rico Hizon-Baldo joined the Archers with 12 points and seven rebounds, while Casio also delivered 11 markers.

The Falcons fell to 1-8.

Ea Jacobo	6
Ea Jacobo	6
Ea Jacobo	6

HONRADA

PSC seeks Gringo's help in claiming Pagcor share

By Jutt Navarro

HOUNDED BY FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, THE Philippine Sports Commission has asked the assistance of the Senate committee on sports in collecting the government agency's original share from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

PSC chief William "Butch" Ramirez personally sought the help of Sen. Gregorio Honasan in watching the 5-percent share the PSC said we get from the Pagcor.

The Pagcor allocation for the PSC was slashed by half during the time of President Joseph E. Estrada, an avid sportsman.

The PSC share from the gross profits of Pagcor goes to the Matrocad Sports Development Fund, a cash reserve intended to subsidize the training, nutrition, housing, allowances and preparation of athletes for international events.

"I hope the Senate would help us bring back the 5-percent share of the PSC from Pagcor—it should go to sports," said Ramirez during Honasan's visit on Wednesday to the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Though Ramirez failed to reveal exact figures, a reliable PSC source said that a 5-percent share could fetch the government sports agency as much as P300 million a month from the estimated P3 billion monthly gross income of Pagcor.

The PSC currently receives half of that share (about P50 million) irregularly to handled the training expenditures of about a thousand athletes from the national pool and at least 200 coaches from 11 national sports associations.

Apart from those expenses, the PSC also shoulders the country's participation cost in the Southeast Asian Games, Asian Games and Olympics as well as the overseas expenses of the NSAs prior to these events.

"I will look into it and discuss the matter with my colleagues in the Senate," said Honasan, chair of the Senate sports panel.

Honasan met with the athletes, coaches and sports leaders from the PSC, POC and several NSAs to familiarize himself with sports issues.

Aborting NCAA cage season a Mancom option

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ABORT THE 2007 NCAA BASKETBALL season altogether.

This was among the possibilities the NCAA management committee considered during a meeting yesterday ahead of today's meeting of the higher NCAA Policy Board.

League sources said at least three members-schools are pushing for the scrapping of the basketball tournament if San Beda succeeds in getting an extension of the temporary restraining order (TRO) it secured from the court Wednesday against the league's decision to suspend Red Lion stalwart Yousif Aljamal for the rest of the season.

Aljamal—penalized for joining the PBA Rookie Draft last Sunday without serving two preliminaries from the league—went on to lead the Red Lions past the Jose Rizal Heavy Bombers, 92-74, in their game Wednesday.

Aborting the cage season would have meant the defending champion Red Lions, who are already in the Final Four with a 9-1 record and remained favorites to retain their title.

The same sources said Joe Mariano, after meeting with lawyers from host Jose Rizal and Aljamal, may also go for severe measures like forfeiture of San Beda games where Aljamal was fielded, or even a reduction of the penalty slapped on the Red Lion star.

Earlier in the day, San Beda expressed intentions to seek an extension of the TRO while replacing Sr. Paul de Vera with Alfred Aboitiz-Arellano as its representative in the Mancom.

"That's probably the case (TRO extension) because we felt that we can no longer get fair treatment from the NCAA-not a ruling that does not even have any provision in its constitution and bylaws," Fr. Mateo de Jesus, SBC senior and president, told the league yesterday.

The SBC policy board on Wednesday reportedly pushed the Mancom's recommendation for a season ban on Aljamal.

Meanwhile, Lemar said try to join San Beda in the Final Four today when the Knights target an 11 p.m. with the San Sebastian Stags at the Araneta Coliseum.

Also cross Perpetual and St. Benilde earlier collide at 12 p.m.

Coming off a 15-day rest, Lemar coach Louie Alas is confident his players will perform well against the Stags, whom the Knights defeated in the first round, 71-61.

LINDEN THE CLOU Gan Beda star Yousif Aljamal (right).

NUSSAN-BOUND Paolo Nuesca and Lizi del Rosario display their trophies after winning the national Pistol Cup championships Wednesday. With them (from left) are Pagcor Sports SVP Gilbert V. Gaviola, SM Leisure Group VP Ric Canadilao and Pinoy Sports Group VP Joey Pujol.

LUZVIMIN GOLF

Southwoods ladies ahead

EILEENE DE GUZMAN CASADO IN POINTS and sparked Manila Southwoods to an early run-game lead over defending champion Del Monte in the Diamond division at the start Wednesday of the Luzvimin Golf Invitational at the Cebu Country Club course in Cebu.

The reigning Thailand Ladies Amateur champion drew able support from Lora Rubio, Carmelette Villanueva and Beadee Alaras as the Cougars scored format in the Southwoods ladies posted 191.

Roberts had 49 points, Villanueva made 46 and Alaras 42. Claire Ong and Sandy Sebagare did not count with 43 and 35, respectively.

Del Monte fell two points behind at 193 both around the 54 of Carolyn Galapate, who is seeking a third straight individual crown.

Also scoring for Del Monte were Marian Pelo-1483, Kristine Soomer-1454 and Eric Mellores. Del manager sister of pro star Frankie who contributed a 94.

Host Cebu Country Club, behind the 58 of club champion Stephanie Olea, was running third with 1388 counting the 60 of Kathleen Oy 43 of Hannah Wong and 50 of Ada Martinez.

Casey Agustinida was third at 275, Rose Ellis fourth at 158, John Hay 144 and Marian Gane 190.

Alabang showed the way in the Pearl division with 225, three shot of Wack Wack and six of Cleo Filipino.

It was a three-way fight among Negros (1558), the Elves (157) and Pamplona (156) in the Ruby Division.

Team Pacquiao going it without Fortune

LOS ANGELES—TRENT WEST Freddie Roach had to share about a running compartment in Team Pacquiao. The two-time Trainer of the Year said there would be no breakdown, no succor when, despite the absence of would-training guru Justin Fortune.

Roach said because, the host of journeys, had a falling out after the physical conditioning manner was away with the United's check from Manny Pacquiao's last fight against Marcos Antio Baby.

"He can have all the money," Roach remarked to dealt reports he was planning on life changes, as he was officially certified to the trainer's fee.

Fortune trained and prepared Pacquiao here for the Solo fight, while Roach was stuck with Oscar De La Hoya in Puerto Rico where the Golden Boy trained for Floyd Mayweather Jr.

* * *

Roach could be right. There should be no worry whatsoever that Fortune's departure could be on hardship and it could a soft spot in Pacquiao's total regimen.

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

There, in a flash, was the old Fortune which he had wielded in his days as a peppery top featherweight, hanging it bloody against rush greats as Bobby Chacon.

But take it easy please. After a pause, here's a point worth pondering, back with the Four times since Pacquiao lost to the Texas fighter on the world surge that he would be preparing for a major fight without Fortune looking after his health and power?

* * *

Members of the Pacquiao staff left behind here have openly stated that Fortune was already there in Pacquiao's first fight against Eliseo Antonio Barrera, when he stepped, in November 2003.

Those same Pacquiao people never saw to succeeding Fortune was a vital cog in the succeeding big bouts, mainly in the trilogy against overall Hall-of-Famer Erik Morales.

This is not to suggest Pacquiao and Roach would again venture into something untested and new.

* * *

Of course, they both had gone wrong in that first duck against Morales, a Del Roach and Pacquiao would admit, when they were blindsiding they could triumph, press all the way and overcome El Terrible.

Yes, Fred, Freddie knows best. We're, in fact, not to say premature to even suggest he and Pacquiao would venture into another costly experiment.

Just the same, there were claims from the same Pacquiao people here that Fortune, said to be a real disciplinarian, would've not allowed Pacquiao to risk his career and hard-earned by a full game of basketball now that they are in the Club of training.

* * *

HBO PBC Bobby Arc Hitter will be honored in a museum of Presidio Aguilar, under the Western Hotel, at the Blue Room of the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas on Aug. 28. It is Oscar camera-hotel where Pacquiao knock the hero in a rematch on Oct. 6.

SPORTSWATCH

P15M at stake as Asia Pacific Poker Tour comes off wraps

THREE FORMER WORLD CHAMPIONS would be vying some of the P15 million in prize money as the inaugural tournament series Asia Pacific Poker Tour begins today at the Hyatt Hotel and Casino in Manila.

Daniel Negreanu, the 2004 World Poker Tour winner, and World Series of Poker champs Joe Hachem (2005) and Mansour Matloubi (1995) are just three of the 1500 foreign entries in the three-day event produced by PokerStars.com, the world's largest online poker site and sanctioned by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Overseeing Asia's richest poker tourney next is Danny McDonagh, under whose direction this Asian offshoot has become one of the world's best and poker tourneys.

Franco Baldinelli, PokerStars.com's principal consultant for the Philippines, said 40 players are scheduled to fly in from Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the United States and the host country.

The 8-year-old Barbosa shared the spotlight with teammate Megan Colcher, whose years the team's youngest, and SM Booth-mate's Horacio Dañosa, the oldest at 71.

"SM's confident that its juniors not skating has some final," said SM Leisure Center vice president Pio Cenadillas. "Hopefully our skaters now show the world that we can excel in ice-skating."

Gerry, RP jins Scoop guests

REIGNING WORLD BOXING CHAMPION Gerry Peñalosa together with the national badminton doubles and game today's session of the Scoop! at Robinsons Galleria Manila.

Peñalosa is expected to discuss his plans following his upcoming title defense against Jhonny Gonzalez two weeks ago.

RP coach Stephen Fernandez will be joined by badminton pros Veronica Domenden Wilfredo Lorenzo and Sabrina Bentsuan.

Special derby in Pasay today

RIDERS TEAM SOLIDO STABLE SPICE UP today's showdown featuring small-time cockers and derby regulars from Metro Manila in a special 5-race derby starting at 1 p.m. at the Pasay City Cockpit.

Supporter by Supporter Complexo 2000, the derby dangles a P100,000 purse and is reserved for Class Stakes and Open and Area Stakes today fee is P5,000.

Meanwhile, the National Cockers Association's five-leg sabong derby series gets under way at the same venue on Sept. 4.

Also the Pasaries, the Pasay group. Vice Gov. Boyet Jonson and Mayor Eusebio are hosting the NCA opener.

Race 1—(10)
—E Nakagawa (3)
Designated (3) 5
Sandra Rosario (3)

Race 2—(10)
—Alex Abella (3)
Smiley Boring (3), Nina Mariano (3), Nora Aunor (3)

Race 3—(10)—(2007 Debut (2)) 2nd Of Eight (3)—Alex Abella (3)
Race 4—(10)—(2007 Debut (2)) 2nd Of Eight (3)—Alex Abella (3)
Race 5—(10)—Hip To Be (4), Rudi Cooling (3), Karma (3)
Race 6—(2007 Debut (2)) Rock (3), Quiet A Fire (3), Dance Queen (3), Loaded Star (3)
Race 7—(10)—Rock (3), Quiet A Fire (3), Dance Queen (3), Loaded Star (3)
Race 8—(2007 Debut (2)) Rock (3), Quiet A Fire (3), Dance Queen (3), Loaded Star (3)
Race 9—(10)—Rock (3), Quiet A Fire (3), Dance Queen (3), Loaded Star (3)
Race 10—(10)—Rock (3), Quiet A Fire (3), Dance Queen (3), Loaded Star (3)

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Taiwanese shut door on Blu Girls

JAKARTA—THE PHILIPPINE BLU Girls again widened the limit in the world championship after bowing to Chinese Taipei, 9-1, yesterday in the Ninth Asian Women's Basketball Championship.

After crashing host Indonesia, 6-1, late Wednesday, the Southeast Asian champion Blu Girls could get only two hits off Taiwanese pitcher Chin Ming-hsiang were out of it in the third inning as eight runs when the game was called after five innings.

The two-time champs Chiu yielded produced a run for the Blu Girls in the first inning, but the Taiwanese quickly regained the upperhand with two runs in their half of the frame.

Chiu went on to shut out the Filipinos in the next four innings while her teammates battered three RP pitchers for six hits, including an inside-the-park homer by Huang Hui-wen.

"Talong pa talaga ang pinoy-ayan (We lacked sufficient training)," ruled RP coach Ana Santiago, noting that the Blu Girls hit well in one game and then struggled in per a bit in the next.

The fourth place finish, however, improved by a notch the national squad's showing in the same event in Manila two years ago.

The victory sent the Taiwanese into a rematch with elimination round conqueror China in a duel for the right to face defending champion Japan for the title.

The powerhouse Japanese shut out China, 7-0, earlier in the day to clinch the first title slot. The fates of the Taiwan-China contest ironically up there.

South Korea shielded to fifth from fourth-seeds in 2005, while the Koreans do. Pinadon coached Indonesians the ninth-seeds Thailand were seventh, Singapore, handled by another Filipino tactician, Ulysses Mejia, was eighth, followed by Hong Kong and Malaysia.

Dimakiling, Nadera head Pinoy chessers' title drive

DIMAKILING

Indonesia and IM Gary Lane of Australia.

Other ninth round matches saw Nadera split the point with Hakiman and IM Ronald Bonsol yield to Indonesian IM Sadikin Irwansyah.

Top seed GM Zhang Zhong and Li Chao of China finished their assignments to join fellow Chinese IM Jiaxin Li and Wang Zhen in the lead with 5.0 points apiece. Zhang crushed IM Debmalya Mukherjee (IND) in 41 moves while Chao bested Filipino Feb Mardo Haneef Sevel.

Other Filipinos in the title hunt were IM Emmanuel Senador (4.0 points), and IM Rolando Nolte (4.0).

Marlon Bermudez

Rosales, Murakami 3 off pace

KINTA, PERAK, MALAYSIA—CHINESE Taipei's Lin Chien-liang conquered the rainy greens to take the first round lead at the Eduardo Joven Open on Thursday.

Lin, 23, rained the challenging par-72 course at the Royal Johor Country Club with a four-under par 67 and was a stroke ahead of Asian Tour's USG Order of Merit leader Liang Wen-chong.

South Korea's Lee Sang-hee fired for third after a 69 with Hong Kong-based Chinese Taipei in the $500,000 event.

Thai Boonsit Mardold was in joint fifth after a 70 alongside Stephen Scahill, Filipinos Arnold Parales and Antonio Murakami, India's Gaurav Ghei, Steve Surry of England, Australia's Adam Evans, and Kohki Hamura of United States.

Five other Filipinos in the event kicking off the second half of the Asian Tour were in contention to make the halfway cut with Angelo Que and Jeremy Dehabarte matching par 71, Juvy Lucrato and Mars Pacay carding 72s and Jonz Pagsanjan scoring 73.

Asian Tour News

Mayol cuts Batawang, sparring halted

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—BOOKMAKER MAMBRES a sharp hit hook to the head that cut their sparring yesterday, prompting a halt to the sparring program for the bout, the world's light flyweight title bout set for next month.

Batawang, 35, is going for the IBF 108-lb. crown of Mexican Chris Jolie, who stopped Hamchan Jung in Chicago.

Despite the thick head guard, a small wound was inflicted on the tip of Batawang's right eyebrow in the sparring session.

There was an immediate announcement of Wild Card here that Batawang won't spar again until Monday.

If the bores out is still brisk, trainer Jeremiah Quijano said they would instead emphasize on road work and heavy gym work.

Mayol, preparing for a fight in the US, is fighting Reception Jaime Batawang on March in the Hamchan Jay Beaver in Las Vegas, said the hard hitting Batawang has the big punch that could stop Jolie.

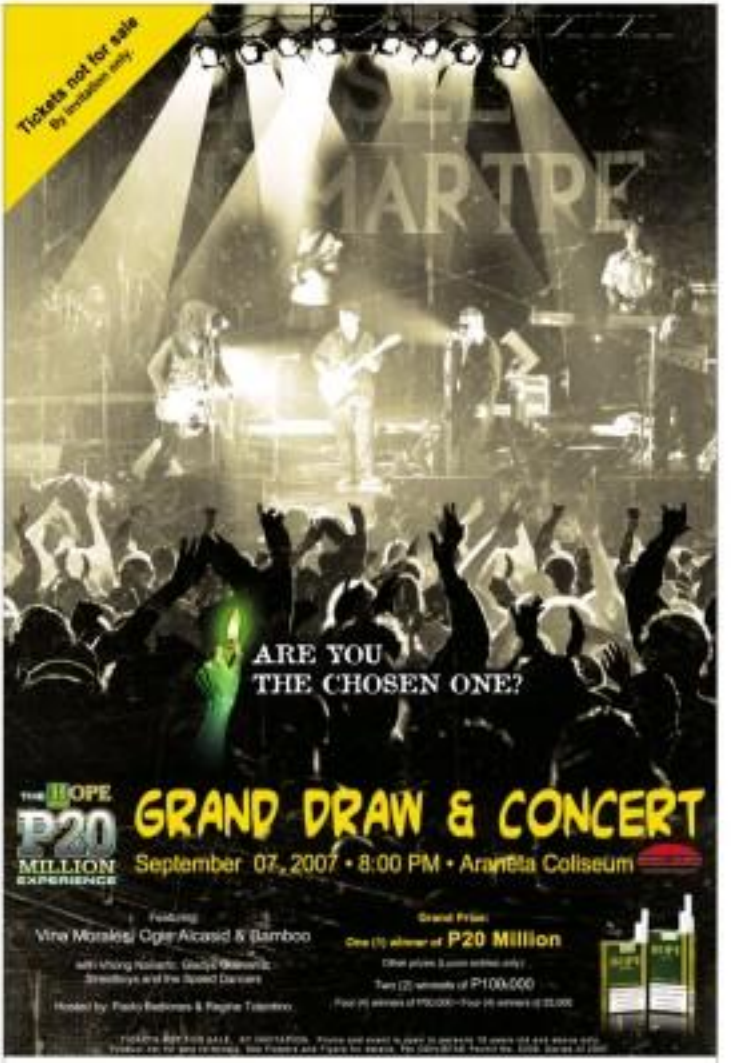
W. Wack Prexy's Cup under way

TAKE AIM: Jolie Jolie

MORE THAN 300 PLAYers will be battling for individual titles and fabulous raffle prizes at stake as the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's Prexy's Cup, the first major tournament under new club president Luis C. Tan, comes off the wraps today at the East and West courses of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City.

The President's Cup, which coincides with the birthday of Tan, will be a double shotgun tee-off at the West layout. The first batch starts play at 7 a.m while the second set begins at 12:30 p.m. Over at the East course, a separate tee-off will be held from 9 a.m to 1 p.m.

A Hyundai Tucson from Wheels Inc., a Vios van from Toyota Balintawak, a Chery Tiggo from Autohub, two golf carts from Kart Plaza and Turf Company and two Northwest Airlines Manila-East Coast Manila business class tickets are at stake as hole-in-one prizes.



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

IAAF eyes 4-year ban on drug cheats

OSAKA, JAPAN—ATHLETES SHOTS ON THURSDAY CALLED ON world authorities to get tough on drug cheats by imposing a standard four-year ban. The International Association of Athletics Federations made the appeal ahead of a global doping conference. AFP

SPORTS

Hungarian stuns Hantuchova

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT—SLOVAKIA'S DANIELA HANTUCHOVA was beaten by a Hungarian qualifier in the second round of the WTA event in New Haven on Wednesday. The second seed was broken five times as Agnes Szavay clinched 47, 7-5, 6-0 victory. Reuters

US cagers flaunt might; Brazil up

LAS VEGAS—CARMELO ANTHONY scored 27 points, Jason Kidd added 14, and the United States rolled to a 112-69 victory over Venezuela on Wednesday in its opening game of the American basketball championships.

Michael Redd also had 17 points, Antawn Jamison scored 16, and Dwight Howard 12 for the Americans, who improved to 27-0 in the regional Olympic qualifier. The Americans face the 0-28 Virgin Islands in the final game Thursday.

Also, Mexico downed Puerto Rico 109-89; Uruguay overcame Panama, 88-84, to save face, and Brazil held off Canada, 77-67.

Bryant was making his long-awaited international debut, while Anthony was the leading American scorer last year at the world championships.

Geneva Vasquez scored 12 points for Venezuela, which will face Canada on Thursday.

Earlier, Victor Mallard scored 30 points, 22 in the first half to lead Mexico over Puerto Rico.

With a strong defensive effort that held Puerto Rican star Carlos Arroyo, who plays for the Orlando Magic, without a field goal, Mexico pulled away after the Puerto Ricans rallied from a 12-point halftime deficit to grab a one-point lead early in the fourth quarter.

Puerto Rico committed 27 turnovers, 13 in the first half, that led to Mexican steals and layups. Puerto Ricans shot 13-5 in the final 3 minutes of the second quarter to build a 57-40 halftime lead.

Rick Apodaca had 15 points, and Mexico added 14 for Puerto Rico, which has struggled since opening the Olympic Games in 2004.

Michael Redd had 17 points, including the basket that forced overtime with under two seconds left in regulation, for Uruguay to overcome Panama 88-84.

Jessica Gadalupe sank 3-3-0-2 in overtime gave Uruguay the lead for good at 83-79. He also grabbed 19 rebounds. AP

KOBE Bryant (left) celebrates with Carmelo Anthony after the United States' 112-69 victory over Venezuela. REUTERS

NY skyline inspires Sharapova's Open outfit

SHARAPOVA

NEW YORK—MARIA Sharapova describes her U.S. Open title next week, she'll be wearing tennis dresses decorated with graphic interpretations of New York's skyline.

The designs, created in collaboration with Nike senior designer Colleen Sandiman, were unveiled on Wednesday on a rooftop in Rockefeller Center.

Like last year, Sharapova will have one outfit dedicated for the final and another for eight matches.

"It's always important to feel comfortable in what you're wearing when you're playing, but in tennis, you can do so many things with your wardrobe," Sharapova said wearing the last year dress in a flared shift of turquoise that she'll wear on tonight.

The color is in honor of the Big Apple. "I've worn a red top before but never a red dress, but there is no better place to do it than New York," she told the Associated Press.

The dress is a sleek garment made of a breathable wicking jersey and constructed with a no-sew technique with seams bonded with heat and silicone instead of thread.

There are more than 600 Swarovski crystals incorporated into the design, adding a little flash to the outfit, but Sharapova said the colors and cutting-edge technology aren't the things with too much person ... things that are tacky."

There are also crystal buttons down the back, creating a keyhole effect.

Rangers rip Orioles with record 30 runs

BALTIMORE—THE TEXAS RANGERS become the first team in 116 years to score 30 runs in a game, rolling an American League record to a 30-3 win of Baltimore on Wednesday.

Trailing 3-0 in the opener of a doubleheader, the Rangers scored five runs in the fourth, nine in the sixth, 10 in the eighth and six in the ninth.

It was the ninth time a major league team scored 20 runs, the first since Chicago set the major league record in a 26-7 rout of Louisville in a National League game in 1897, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Marlon Byrd and Travis Metcalf hit grand slams for the Rangers. Jerod Saboltamarbia and Ramon Vazquez each homered twice and finished with seven RBIs.

David Murphy had five of the Rangers' 29 hits, the most by a major league team since Milwaukee had 31 against Toronto on 1993.

Hours after announcing manager Dave Trembley would return for the 2008 season, the Orioles absorbed the most lopsided loss in franchise history and set a team record for hits allowed in a game.

In the second game, Texas rallied to win 9-7, with Baltimore reliever Jim Hoey (1-1) taking the loss. Joaquin Benoit (6-3) earned the victory with 1 1-3 innings of scoreless relief. C.J. Wilson pitched 6 1/3 for his seventh save. 4

At Minneapolis, Michael Cuddyer's grand slam backed a seven-run first inning for Minnesota and the Twins styled Seattle's winning streak at five, 8-4. AP

Tiger's absence provides tour with new excitement

HAMILTON, NEW YORK—PGA TOUR commissioner Tim Finchem has tried to put a positive spin on Tiger Woods's absence from this week's Barclays Classic, the opening events of the inaugural FedEx Cup playoff series.

"From the standpoint of the sponsor here it's certainly a negative," Finchem told reporters on Medinah, day. "Watching the e-mails and blogs come through over the past week ... the fan seem to have a different view.

"They seem to think Tiger was going to win this thing (the series) and now it's not so sure. let's going to win it as it creates more excitement and more on. Dramatic."

TIGER Woods

World number one Woods cited fatigue for his withdrawal after winning the PGA Championship in successive weeks.

The 144-strong field here will be cut to 120 for the following week at the Deutsche Bank Championship before 70 players qualify for the Sept. 6-9 BMW Championship.

The playoffs end with the top 30 competing at the Sept 13-16 Tour Championship in Atlanta, Georgia where a $10 million bonus is shared between the overall champion.

Vijay Singh, the second ranked player, won the Barclays last year to claim his third triumph at Silverbacker Country Club. Reuters

BUSINESS

John Paul D. Morales • Assistant Editor Carrie S. Montes

Excellence in Connection
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Peso seen hitting 44.50:$1 by year's end

Rising trend still intact, says Citigroup economist

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY RALLIED against the dollar but later succumbed to profit-taking while the regional currency markets rebounded as hopes that the US Federal Reserve will soon take more measures to offset a worsening credit crunch.

The local currency hit a high of 46.28 in early morning trade but closed near the day's low at 46.64, weaker than the previous day's finish of 46.47, as some market players saw an opportunity to look at gains on the full requirements, currency traders said.

The third quarter is usually a weak period for the peso due to the seasonal surge in demand for dollars to cover importation requirements ahead of the Christmas season.

But traders said market sentiment had improved, reflecting the recovery in regional markets. Most currencies in the region gained against the greenback on optimism caused by the US Fed's decision last Friday to cut its rediscount rate by 50 basis points.

PESO B2

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **BSP keeps interest** rates steady /B5
■ **Agri growth seen** slowing to 2% in '07 /B8

SMC, Oishi maker push overseas expansion

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lanzas

TWO FILIPINO COMPANIES—San Miguel Corp. and Liwayway Marketing Corp. (makers of the Oishi line of snacks)—are pursuing expansion projects outside the country.

Now enjoying good sales in Vietnam, San Miguel is exploring putting up a new brewery in neighboring Cambodia, while Oishi is planning its first agro-industrial plant in China, the world's fourth biggest economy.

Following a Good News Kapihan briefing at Pepper Cavendish yesterday, San Miguel senior vice president for special projects Bonifacio Aboitiz Jr. said that the beer-based giant was adding brewing capacity in its Hiệp Phước (SG) plant to extend Vietnam's 600,000 hectoliters a year domestic consumption commitment.

The company produces San Miguel Pale Pilsen and San Mig Light in Vietnam. It also manufactures "Halong," a local Vietnamese non-premium-level (mid-level) beer.

With the additional capacity, the company is looking at bringing other "light" beer product brands to Vietnam.

"The potential there is big. The Vietnamese are heavy drinkers, they drink every night," Aboitiz said when asked about San Miguel's expansion track in Vietnam's competitive beer market.

San Miguel's presence in Vietnam dates back to 1991 with the setting up of San Miguel Brewery Vietnam Ltd.

SMC B1

Shares close 2.9% higher

SHARE PRICES CLIMBED 2.9 PERCENT higher yesterday, building gains on their fifth straight session as investors were upbeat about the trading blueprint the US may be nearing, dealers said.

The rise left Asia's core economies more than two-thirds of the losses it made last week, since top-tier shift in sentiment across the world, they added.

The benchmark index gained 69.69 points to settle at 2,723.15 off the day's high of 2,738.96. The broader all-share index gained 15.12 points to 2,464.52.

There were 127 gainers and 113 losers, while 29 stocks were unchanged. Volume totalled 2.4 billion shares worth P3.8 billion ($81.68 million).

"There's a sense of optimism in local markets following last week's turmoil," said DA Market Securities president Benito Aguila. "The focus is back on corporate fundamentals."

Most fund managed Wednesday as investors saw a pullback in US treasuries and an increase in borrowing by banks as signs that the federal Reserve's efforts to loosen up the credit market might be working.

SHARES B4

PNOC head becomes subsidiary chair

By Abigail L. Ho

PEDRO AQUINO JR., PRESIDENT of the state-run Philippine National Oil Co., is relinquishing his post to take over the chairmanship of wholly owned subsidiary PNOC Energy Development Corp.

Customs PNOC-EDC chair Jesus Carlos will take Aquino's place as the mother company relies the latter's term expires at the end of this month.

Asked for confirmation, PNOC-EDC president Fred Aquino said the "job switch" would indeed take place at month's end, adds the latter's board election on the 31st.

Aquino declined to elaborate on the matter, and the job switch is in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to fast-track the privatization of the government's remaining 40-percent stake in PNOC-EDC.

In an earlier interview, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the sale of the PNOC-EDC stake would fetch for the government between P12 billion and P14 billion.

The amount would be used to finance the government's remaining expenditure projects, as well as reduce the budget deficit.

He said that the PNOC board is now in the process of looking for a financial advisor for the 40-percent stake sale.

Click, the adviser for the sale of the initial 60-percent PNOC-EDC stake that was privatized this year and last year, could still be retended the advisory contract, Teves said.

Asean sees no letup in investment growth

Level of inflows in '06 was the highest in the region since the Asian meltdown

By Raissa M. Dumlao

THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST Asian Nations is bracing for continued growth of investment in the region considered "relatively attractive" also for inflows.

Asean secretary general Ong Keng Yong said he believed investment inflows, which reached $52.4 billion in 2006, would grow consistently until beyond the time the region would become even more competitive in the coming years.

Ong, along with Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila, held a briefing yesterday following the 38th Asean Investment Area Council meeting at the Manila Peninsula Hotel.

"Governments are stepping up efforts to increase this attractiveness, which Asean is continually achieving through improvements in infrastructure and logistics," he said. "Asean offers good opportunities to investors as well as safe and sound venues for their projects compared to other regions."

Ong said the region's resistance to emerging giant markets such as India and China was also helping build up investor interest.

Further, he said, business prospects for the region was being buttressed by Asean's ability to sell better its ideas and visions.

On the other hand, Ong said that any private sector idea due to "sheer good luck."

"People have money to invest and we are ready for it," he offered said. "We have a certain positive feeling. Let this investment [continued on page B2]

SMC, Oishi ...

From page B1

Expansion of Vietnam's continued economic growth, San Miguel extended its business beyond beer to packaging and food through the purchase in 2003 of TTC Namsin Ltd., (now San Miguel Pure Foods (VN) Co. Ltd.), commonly the spring-based drinks maker.

In 2004, the company again increased in a new business venture through San Miguel (Germany) Co. Ltd., a non-alcoholic beverage facility in Bien Hoa City to make and market soft beverages and commonly non-alcoholic drinks and tea and other beverages.

Aside from Vietnam, San Miguel is exploring plans to cut up a brewery to Cambodia, which is bordered by South Vietnam to the east.

San Miguel already easily exports Pale Pilsen and Blue Ice beer to Cambodia. Export volumes to Cambodia are estimated at 25,000 cases a year.

To beat up a plant that encompasses roughly 200,000 hectoliters a year of beer, San Miguel would need about $10 million.

San Miguel may come up with a decision on its proposed Cambodia brewery venture by 2006.

Meanwhile, Oishi has recently put up a new snacks and noodles plant at Hanoi after its First plant in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

It operates 13 plants in China where it has dominated the snacks market and intends to put up a new plant there in Jiangsu by 2006, said Jay Glen Li, the company's Marketing manager in the china. The company is owned by the Chua family.

Oishi completed a plant in Thailand and Indonesia last year. It also has one manufacturing plant in Myanmar and three plants in the Philippines.

The average cost of putting up a plant is $5.48 million for the building and land.

Peso ...

From page B1

Many saw this as a signal that the US Fed would next lower its funds rate, the most significant interest rate benchmark, so-early is next month in order to soften liquidity following the credit squeeze triggered by high delinquency in the high-risk or sub-prime mortgage market.

Given the recent financial market volatility and demand created by the import season, Trinidad said the peso would likely remain around 46 to 51 by the end of the third quarter.

"We expect a favorable monetary trend in these tables, but we remain very optimistic in terms of our real [investment] peso rate to [be] 44.50 from the current 44," Trinidad said.

He said the remittance season in terms of the [continued] should provide strong liquidity support coupled with a weak dollar rate, investment heading into 2008 in the US Fed lowers its key interest rate.

"While the potential for offshore market [pressure] remains with many many unlikely to resume in the near term, we believe some relief rally for the Asian currency and equity markets on the back of good fundamentals will materialize," Trinidad said.

Lucy made refers to the borrowing of cheap money from low-interest rate markets like Japan to fund high-yielding but higher-risk investments in emerging markets like the Philippines.

PRULINK — PRU LIFE UK

Investments Funds (Life Insurance Contract)	Current Price (August 11, 2006)	Last Week (August 04, 2006)
Bond Fund - Peso	1.8942	1.8939
Managed Fund - Peso	1.6838	1.6837
Growth Fund - Peso	1.7324	1.7314
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1824	1.1771

Prices are subject to change without prior notice. Please call your Financial Consultant for more information.

It's the IFM, stupid

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

VERY FORMER AMERICAN PRESIDENT Bill Clinton was asked what the main issue was in the recent campaigns, he said: "It's the economy, stupid!"

The lesson on politics spread, and Clinton won the presidency.

Yesterday, the Philippine Daily Inquirer came out with an editorial headlined, "It's the basics, stupid!" It was in reaction to Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez' [illegible] relationships.

It stated: "Obviously, educational reforms are needed, but they should start at the heart of the matter. A bureaucracy that is supposed to address the needs of the educational system, but itself is the main culprit."

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, who has a track record of successful innovations, is already tackling this issue.

But those of us involved in the campaigning campaign, when asked what the key factor is in fighting smuggling, our answer is: "It's the IFM, stupid!"

It was announced yesterday that President Macapagal-Arroyo herself would conduct monthly command conferences with the Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Department of Finance and Philippine National Police.

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"People have money to invest and we are ready for it," he offered said. "We have a certain positive feeling. Let this investment

COMMENTARY

DATE	EVENT
March 2004	Executive Order No. 883 creates the IFM
August 2004	Duties abolished; IFM access to be studied
March 2005	IFM access promised (but not delivered)
January 2006	MOA (MOU) providing IFM access to BOC (but not implemented)
August 2006	President starts BOC Command Conference, with hope that IFM access will finally be implemented

LOST REVENUE

IFM stands for Inward Bonded Manifest, which lists the products being imported. But the IFM is not used, and the data of arrivals. The Bureau of Customs usually receives this information two or more days before the ship arrives.

But only the BOC has access to these IFMs. This is good for the smugglers and their corrupt BOC partners, as they have the powerful ears in the BOC. Users no one knows when is being imported except the BOC and the smugglers, the appropriate taxes are not collected.

How much is the foregone revenue? According to the Bankers' Association of the Philippines, there is a P360.0 billion difference between the value of goods the exporting countries report they have sent, and the value of goods the BOC reports we have received.

If the US report is to be believed, then we have a P360.0 billion smuggling problem. Given that 1 percent VAT and the average 5 percent tariff duties, there is an 18 percent loss of revenue. This amounts to US$1.8 billion, or at least P90 billion.

We believe much of this loss may be attributed to the BOC having sole access to the IFMs.

But such was not always the case. The table above shows the several features of IFM in this country.

IFM ACCESS

In March 2004, the President established the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Anti-smuggling (Coasc). This was composed of cabinet secretaries from relevant departments, such as agriculture, trade and industry, finance and justice. Then Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes was appointed the Coasc. He asked these organizations to become permanent participants in the biweekly meetings. Alliances agriculture for agriculture, Federation of Philippine Industries for industry, and Sin Tanks Alliance for trade.

From March to August 2004, relevant government agencies and selected private sector representatives had access to IFMs.

Then operations were monitored the IFMs. Thus, when a shipment arrives, a notification is provided to catch potential smuggling.

The results were stupendous. Huge smuggled goods had left the ports. For example, custom import documents without import permits could still be issued. Today, since only the BOC has access to IFMs, no one else knows which goods have actually arrived in, and left, the ports. This may be the reason why the [illegible] billion difference between the reports of the exporting country and our own BOC reports.

Further, the BOC needs a public consensus to rally or force access to IFM. It made the announcement to representatives of Alyansa Agrikultura on March 1, 2006 during a dialogue with Coasc members, the BOC and the Department of Agriculture on Jan. 6, 2007 signed a memorandum of agreement over the IFM access. Members of the Alyansa Agrikultura were witnessed the signing. But to this day, the BOC remains the sole agency that has access to IFMs.

Mr. hope that, during the President's meeting, we agree that the Customs bureau, the IFM issue will be resolved.

Conclusion

Activities such as destroying smuggled cars may have been spoiled in highlighting the commercial drive against smuggling. However, we agree that the confiscated cars should be forgone. Auction proceeds should instead go to projects like the "Enteral Kalinga," which currently has no agricultural feed/food component fully supported by the Alyansa Agrikultura.

Also, the IFMs must be made accessible. Officials could only be transparent the MOA between the BOC and the Da.

At the end of the year, when we are asked why smuggling has decreased significantly, the same way it did in 2004, we hope to answer: "The President herself addressed the IFM issue!"

The author is Agrowatch chair, former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and feeds and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agrowatch@ yahoo.com or telephone 1002-8520113.

Gov't to bid out Ambuklao-Binga hydropower facilities in November

By Abigail L. Ho

POWER SECTOR Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. has selected the 175-megawatt (MW) Ambuklao-Binga hydropower plant package on the auction block, handing President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to accelerate the privatization of the government's energy sector stakes and more.

In an invitation to bid published on Aug. 22, PSALM said prospective bidders had up to Sept. 14 to submit their letters of interest to bidding for the hydropower facilities.

Before potential bidders could secure the bidding package, however, they would first have to execute a confidentiality agreement and undertaking with PSALM and pay a nonrefundable $1,000 participation fee on or before Sept. 16.

The pre-bidding conference for the plant package has been scheduled for Sept. 26, with the actual bidding date to be set within the year.

PSALM said it is hoping to auction off the plants by mid-November.

The 75-MW Ambuklao and 100-MW Binga hydropower facilities are two of the oldest National Power Corp. plants, having [illegible]

PGA Cars, Inc. Sole Importer and Distributor of Audi. 201 EDSA Mandaluyong City. For a test drive call 727-2888 or 727-2287 up to 89.

RP picked for Nestlé shared service center

Unit to serve affiliates in Asia, Oceania, Africa

THE PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN CHOSEN BY the Nestlé Group as the site for its shared service center for financial and employee services.

Nestlé Philippines announced this yesterday as it started preparations to set up the center, which will be the first Nestlé Business Service (NBS) Unit in Asia, Oceania and Mexico or NBS.

NBS will serve the financial and employee service requirements of Nestlé companies in Zone AOA, covering the Philippines, Malaysia/Singapore, Indonesia, Indochina, Australasia and New Zealand.

Financial services include account payables and receivables, and accounting operations. Employee services cover payroll, HR administration, time management and benefits administration.

In a statement, Nestlé Philippines chairman and CEO Nicolas Mantelbaum said the shared service center, which will be a separate entity from Nestlé Philippines Inc., underlines the determination of the Nestlé Group's continuing confidence in and commitment to support the long-term economic growth of the country.

He said the Nestlé Group had considered a number of countries as possible site for the center but had selected the Philippines because of talent availability and other factors.

Mantelbaum said the NBS, which is expected to create employment opportunities, was designed to deliver best-in-class office support at competitive service levels and scope to Nestlé companies in the region.

The Nestlé Group has successfully implemented the shared service model in Europe and the Americas, resulting in maximized cost effectiveness, efficiency and improved quality in financial and employee service transactions.

Nestlé said moving the financial and employee service transactions to the NBS would be done progressively, starting with Nestlé Philippines, which was expected to complete the transition of its financial services by the end of 2002 and its employee services by the end of the first quarter of 2003.

Employees who will be affected by the development will be provided with a separation package that is over and above what the law requires, and will also be considered in the new NBS organization. Salary are programs such as change and care workshops, livelihood seminars and outplacement services will likewise be made available to them.

The complete transition by the other Nestlé companies in the zone is expected by end of 2004.

Philex copper, gold output up

By Amy R. Remo

LISTED THAN PHILEX MINING CORP. said it had produced P1.06 billion worth of copper, gold and silver from its mining operations in Benguet in July, slightly up from month ago's P1.04 billion.

In a disclosure, Philex reported that its production of copper totalled 1,822 million kilograms; gold, 995,810 kg; and silver, 373,897 grams.

On Aug. 5, Philex shipped an initial P700 million worth of copper and gold. The shipment was composed of 2.6 million pounds of copper and 8,000 ounces of gold.

"The shipment was originally scheduled for lifting on or before end of July but was delayed due to a strong typhoon that earlier hit Japan," said Isidro Sievers, Philex chairman and CEO.

Philex said a second shipment is scheduled also for this month.

The mining firm in earlier said its net income more than doubled to P1.5 billion in the first half of the year, from last year's P1.2 billion. Profit in the second quarter was up to P1.3 billion from last year's P596 million.

Shares . . . From page B1

Market respondents than the Dingles [illegible] Philippine rallybeap its key interest rates unchanged or its policy-setting meeting later yesterday also boosted confidence that the economy remains fundamentally sound.

"With money supply growth decelerating and inflationary pressures at relatively benign levels, the central bank is unlikely to move, in our view, following its [illegible] of the record rates in the last meeting," Morgan Stanley said in a note.

Among the big winners were recently battered blue chips such as trader leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which rose P30 to P1,545, and Ayala Land, which was up 50 centavos at P11. Metrobank advanced P2.50 to P93. **AFP**

Boardroom liability

THE LATEST ACTION OF THE National Bureau of Investigation on the Michael Lim-ATC investment scandal must be sending a chill down the spine of investments and directors of corporations.

The NBI recently filed with the Department of Justice a complaint for syndicated estafa against the top bosses and key employees of Investment Intermediaries Products Corp., a company registered in the British Virgin Islands, and PIPC Corp., a local company.

Contrary to the general impression, the "PIPC" in the local company is not an abbreviation of the name of the British Virgin Islands-based corporation. It stands for Philippine International Planning Center.

Unofficially, PIPC Corp. appears to have links with its namesake foreign corporation. Officially, however, it is a separate and distinct entity, at least as far as its registered name is concerned.

When PIPC applied for registration in 2000 under the name of Cascavigle Holdings Inc., five lawyers stood as its incorporators and initial directors.

These lawyers, plus the incumbent directors of PIPC and its employees, are included in the NBI complaint sheet.

Duration

It is a common practice in our country for foreign investors to tap the services of local lawyers to act as incorporators of corporations they intend to use as conduits in domestic business.

This arrangement is advantageous to the investors because it relieves their capital investment, e.g., manufacturers of high-tech products, operators of health clubs and distributors of specialized equipment, and would like to test the market first before they bring in their money.

Later, if the foreign investors think they can dispense with the lawyers' presence in the boardroom, the latter are replaced with directors of the owner's choice. Otherwise, the lawyers stay on as directors or as corporate officers of the company.

Whether the practice of local lawyers serving as "dummies" for foreigners in the organization and registration of corporations violates the Anti-Dummy Law is not to be tested in our courts.

Some corporate lawyers engage in the activity partly with their active participation in their duty to provide legal services to their clients.

The contrary view is, there is nothing in the law which exempts lawyers from its coverage.

Liability

The NBI has accused the incumbent directors of PIPC of participation in the commission of fraudulent acts that led to the loss of the investors' money.

Under ordinary circumstances, directors do not intervene in the day-to-day operations of a corporation. They are limited to deciding on important policy matters. The implementation of the board's decisions is left to the line officers.

If for any reason, corporate actions do not accomplish their intended results, the directors and officers cannot be held liable for the losses that the company may be stockholders may have suffered.

But the immunity is on the condition that the directors and officers are duly diligent in exercising their functions, i.e., in bad faith or with gross negligence.

Under the "business judgment" rule, directors and officers are presumed to always act in the best interests of the company and its stockholders.

However, this presumption is an outside if it can be demonstrated that they, bad faith or gross negligence attended the decision-making or implementation process.

And if proved any of these circumstances are present, the result that the transactions can be declared void for the prejudice to the company or stockholders, or both, for whatever losses may have been suffered.

In other words, the liability of the erring director or officer is solidary, rather than joint, in character.

Criminal issue

But there is a caveat to this rule. It applies only to situations where the acts involved are not considered criminal offenses.

If they are, then the directors and officers of the corporation are liable for the consequences of the acts. The corporate status has no bearing on the assessment or culpability for the crime.

Concerned parties in connection with the crime of estafa is the case of the NBI's complaint against the PIPC officials.

Under the law, the estafa committed by a syndicate consisting of five or more persons formed with the intention of carrying out an illegal act or transaction and the amount involved in the misappropriation of moneys contributed by stockholders, or of funds misused by corporation from the general public shall be punished by life imprisonment.

To support its accusation, the NBI has taken the affidavits of [illegible] who claim they were bamboozled by Michael Lim and the PIPC staff into investing their money in foreign exchange trading.

In determining the culpability of the respondents and officers of the corporations, the Department of Justice panel first will evaluate the complaint has to examine closely the extent of their involvement, if any, in the acts that led to the alleged loss of investments.

In the NBI's case, the DOJ examines the NBI's complaint, the respondents may find themselves behind bars during the trial if the evidence of guilt is strong because conviction of estafa is a capital crime.

(For feedback, please write to [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph.)

BSP keeps interest rates steady

Regulator maintains key overnight borrowing rate at 6%

By Doris C. Dumlao

TETANGCO

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS has decided to keep its key interest rates unchanged as it prevent after yesterday's meeting.

"In its deliberations on monetary policy settings, the Monetary Board considered the benign inflation outlook and noted that the balance of risks to future inflation has remained as previously characterized," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a briefing after the policy-making body's board meeting.

He noted that the growth of broad money supply had moderated in May and June.

"Similarly, conditions have normalized by most of Luzon and the approved wage hike for National Capital Region is not expected to generate additional inflationary pressures," Tetangco said.

Tetangco likewise said demand pressures, while on an upward trend, appeared to be limited.

"The relatively firm peso serves to temper price pressures. Inflation expectations also remain subdued, suggesting that markets are confident about the BSP's anti-inflation resolve," the BSP chief said.

Tetangco said the board also discussed the recent turmoil in the global financial markets and reaffirmed its previous assessment that this would have a limited impact on the domestic financial system.

He was referring to the troubles hounding the subprime market in the United States.

Aspects of debacle on housing loans in the sector has caused investors to shy away from the equities market, not once but three times, after the US Federal Reserve cut its discount rate.

"Going forward, the BSP will continue to closely monitor monetary and financial developments to ensure price stability and sustained growth of the economy," he said.

Last month, the central bank slashed its benchmark overnight borrowing rate by 150 basis points to 6 percent—the first cut in four years—and it tapped a record interest rate scheme.

INSULAR LIFE

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Savers	UNIT PRICES (in Php)	
	August 17, 2007	August 13, 2007
Fixed Income Fund	1.274650	1.277663
Balanced Fund	1.267278	1.410456
Equity Fund	1.091116	1.444(30)

Fitch says Asian banks can weather US credit crisis, but face other risks

By Doris C. Dumlao

GLOBAL CREDIT WATCHDOG Fitch Ratings has ruled out any systemic risk for banks in the Asia-Pacific arising from the US subprime mortgage crisis, but has warned of other risks arising from poor market sentiment and low liquidity.

In a statement, the London-based credit rating agency said it had reviewed the exposures of most of its rated Asia-Pacific banks to US subprime-backed structured securities and found that their exposures were low, generally amounting to just a small percentage of the issuing bank's equity capital.

"Losses on such investments will put a dent in annual earnings but do not pose a systemic risk as they are not a serious threat to the soundness of the banks we have reviewed," said David Marshall, managing director and head of Fitch's Financial Institutions Group in Asia-Pacific.

The possibility of loss directly to the US subprime housing sector has shaken the market and caused share prices to dive across the globe.

Moves by central banks from Europe to Japan and the United States to calm the credit market have eased the nervousness, helping share prices to recover some lost ground.

The subprime sector covers borrowers with a poor credit history.

But given the volatility in credit markets, Fitch warned of other risks faced by Asian banks.

"They may have to look at counting losses on matching to market other structured products, whose market values may be depressed by poor market sentiment and low liquidity," Fitch said.

"However, if they continue to hold the securities, these accounting losses should eventually be reversed and the banks should incur significant economic losses only if there is a material change in the defaults and loss rates on asset classes, other than on securities backed by US subprime mortgage exposures," it explained.

Splash income soars 1,445% on strong sales

By Elizabeth Sandino-Lanuza

BEAUTY PRODUCTS MAKER Splash Corp. said its net income surged 1,445 percent to P220.05 million in the first semester from P14.23 million in the same period a year ago.

In a statement, the company said it posted a 37 percent improvement in gross sales to P1.74 billion in the first half due to new product introductions in the mid to end of the year.

The company said it saw hefty growth in its "Bluhd, WOW" brand, a hot-oil treatment that is available to hair conditioners, hair dye brand, "Kolonz" and facial cleanser, "Celery."

Operating expenses declined 13 percent to P544.61 million in the first half versus the P591.61 million recorded the year before.

This led to an increase in operating income of 613 percent to P300.51 million in the first half from P23.68 million from 2006 levels.

Splash Corporation, a Philippine-owned personal care manufacturing and marketing company, competes in the following product categories: Skin, cosmetic, hair and health and wellness.

Splash said some of its products here—Kolonbone, Masterpool, Bristol, Herbal-in—continue to dominate the local personal care industry.

Its subbrand (sub-category) consisting of Extraderm and Masterpool has an 80-percent market share while Skin White and Bodhi's Botanicals the skin-whitening sub-category with a 41 percent of the market.

Boosted by robust first half results, Splash vice president Noel P. Manuzon said that the company was looking forward to a successful initial public offer (IPO) in October or November this year.

Splash plans to raise some P2.5 billion from the proposed sale of shares.

Splash plans to offer between 20 to 30 percent of its capital to the public in a domestic offering.

It is tapping First Metro Investment Corp. and 1B Capital as underwriters.

Gov't to bid out . . .

From page B1

here commissioned in 1986 and 2000, respectively.

Similarly, three 25-MW geothermal plants have been under privatization, or have not been operating, since 2000.

The Binga plant remains in operation. With its four 25-MW generators, it can operate at a hundred percent during high water levels or at a peaking plant during low water levels. It can also provide ancillary services.

The Ambuklao and Binga complexes run along the upper portion of Luzon's longest river, the Agno River.

Binga, which is located in Itogon, Benguet, has 105 kilometers downstream of the Ambuklao plant in Bokod town, also in Benguet.

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Volunteers helped build Cagayan de Oro's leading food firm

SLIMS employs almost 100 workers and indirectly provides jobs to hundreds more who retail their wood products.

By Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez
Contributor

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—"THAT'S A difficult question," replied Herminio Pelaez-Mejia, Executive director of SLIMS Industries Inc., when asked about the best business advice they got from Canadian business experts who volunteered to help small and medium-scale enterprises prop up their ventures.

SLIMS, a local food company, is a two-time recipient of a project grant from the Canadian Executive Services Organization-Business Advisory Project (CESO-BAP), a program funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The business advisory project focuses on helping SMEs, like SLIMS, bring in the profit by proceeding it with innovative, hands-on business training from retired business executives, who volunteer for CESO.

"The first time we were visited, they gave us technical advice on production efficiency. We really needed that because at that time we were setting up a bigger factory for our meat products," Mejia said.

Then a year later, a retired executive of the company that makes the Campbell soup came over.

"We taught us the value of marketing. That I think was the best advice we got, because from that time on, we were on our way to expansion," she said.

Mejia said the endeavor was really hands on in trying to help SLIMS become more successful.

"We are with us, slept in our house, he was with us almost 24 hours a day," Mejia said.

In return, the company owners conceived him like a family member.

"Like he was one of the owners of the company," she said, adding that as a family-run business, each member of the family works hard for the company.

Humble beginnings

Before it became a household name in Cagayan de Oro, SLIMS was the idea of an enterprising mother, who just needed extra cash for her children's needs.

Way back in the '60s, the home of the Pelaez family would be filled with the mouth-watering aroma of a sundael country ham.

Mommy Trip, the family matriarch, would be seen strolling in her kitchen, checking her lids and glazing her much-loved ham with sweet ingredients that she will later hand down to her children.

Weeks before Christmas in 1980, Mommy Trip found herself accepting bulk orders from family and friends, who wanted to give out her ham as special gifts or have it as the centerpiece of the Noche Buena celebrations.

This became the start of a successful cottage industry that Mommy Trip set up.

She chose the brand name SLIMS for her popular sweet products, which is really made up of the letters of her children's names.

Soon enough, Mommy Trip opened a small processing plant for her meat products. The company began with only 10 workers at the plant, while the thirteen children helped out in distributing the products to customers.

Today SLIMS directly employs 100 workers and counts three major outlets in the city.

Showcase

"It was all hard work for the family," Mejia said of the growth that their company posted over the years. "And also because we learned to advice," she quickly added.

The CESO-BAP was introduced to SLIMS by the Department of Trade and Industry.

CESO-BAP partners with both public and private entities to identify its beneficiary SME.

Aside from the DTI, it also closely works with the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) and the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) to achieve its primary goal of addressing the needs of SMEs, with a long-term vision of job creation and poverty reduction.

"We were lucky to have been chosen to be one of the recipient companies," said Mejia, who played host to the two retired Canadian business executives who came one after the other.

"SLIMS is one of our best success phenomena," Banque Apolinario, CESO-BAP project information officer, said.

Apolinario closely monitored the project of CESO-BAP to the company's management.

"We considered SLIMS as a showcase in improving production efficiency of SMEs," Apolinario said.

According to its semi-annual project report, BAP provided assistance in niche marketing and distribution to SMEs like SLIMS.

Prior to the deployment of chosen experts from Canada, the project evaluated the industry. The results of this evaluation determined what capacities a resource needs.

Then the business experts are briefed in.

The knowledge and experience of the Canadian volunteer should be appropriate to the industry where he or she will be deployed. The project funds the fare and allowance of the volunteer while the project beneficiary is responsible for his/her board and lodging.

"We ask the entrepreneur to assess, monitor the volunteer in their business. That's their counterpart in the project. That's why the trainee and the trainee will have enough time to interact and exchange ideas," Apolinario said.

"In the case of SLIMS, we saw a great help in market development and sales when it adopted the aggressive sales and marketing strategy prescribed by our experts," he said.

Among the bold moves adopted by the company was the infusion of P5 million for its plant expansion, specifically for its chicharon production.

It also set up an Filipino Meals kiosk, where its meat products were sold—cooked or uncooked.

Best advice

"We eventually moved into franchising and was successful in it," Mejia said.

Prior to that, they followed what the volunteer expert had told them about—the best means to bring out SLIMS products to the market is by setting up franchise stores.

"We called the franchise stalls 'Pinoy-pino' and, aside from our famous chicharon, we also introduced ready-to-eat meals," she said.

SLIMS franchise stores were very successful that the company won the Franchiser's Touch award given by the Association of Filipino Franchisers last year.

In answer to what makes a business totally successful, Mejia said, "Sister disbanding in the people. And it's still all about quality. Customers should be able to easily find your products, how can you sell where you don't bring your products out?"

Big bucks from wooden lunch boxes

Text and Photos
by Chris F. Pangcatbon
Inquirer Mindanao

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN del Sur—Throw away that environmentally destructive styrofoam lunch boxes and be eco-friendly.

A woodworking and furniture company put up by Taiwanese investors and a local cooperative is selling up a P19-million wood processing plant that will initially export wooden lunch boxes to the United States.

Officials of Tuason Furniture Industry Corp. and Mindanao Farmers Cooperative Diwata Young Growers are hoping their plan to export wooden lunch boxes can contain the supply for the global demand for lunch boxes made of planted softwood species like Albizzia, which are abundant in this timber-rich province.

The plant situated inside the resort-land farm house of Romeo Rivera, president of the cooperative in Barangay San Isidro, is expected to be finished within this year after the groundbreaking rites last Aug. 12.

Workers' training

Wu Hsiao Chin, president of Tuason, said modern equipment on wood working processing will be brought from his country and they were expecting to train at least 100 workers on the technology to produce export quality lunch boxes.

Already, Wu said in Mandaluyong DC times, his business contacts have asked him if they can produce at least one million pieces of lunch boxes a day to supply the outlets of shopping malls, restaurants, hotels and even condominiums.

High-demand

He said the demand for wooden lunch boxes is so high that they can't maintain an offering less P3 a piece.

The use of wooden lunch boxes is to replace plastics and polystyrene or commonly known as styrofoam is now the trend among American consumers and in other Eco world countries in the wake of growing awareness on the use of biodegradable materials.

Styrofoam and plastics are reportedly two of the biggest contributors to global warming.

Incentives needed

Perez has urged Gov. Ma. Valentina Plata to help in developing the wood industry in the province by customizing programs and policies that will encourage more tree farmers to plant softwood tree species.

He said organized tree farmers have been urging the government to provide them incentives by liberalizing the cutting, processing and transport of their produce through the deregulation of planted tree species.

Perez said another drawback why there is no booming industry in the province did not develop is a provincial ordinance that requires trees to every planted tree have reared by tree farmers.

Perez said the establishment of a wood processing plant that will not only make lunch boxes but other wood-based products for export will significantly increase revenues of the local government considering the potential dollar earnings.

Technology transfer

Perez said the joint venture will economically embark on a community-based woodwork industry and labor production where they will set up smaller wood processing machines in the villages and consider the technology to the residents themselves so they could cope with the projected demand for their product.

"While this joint venture project, the province will no longer be just a mere supplier of raw wood materials but producers of world-class finished wood products," Perez said.

How long will it take before a 'mature' brand dies?

Q: LETS ASSUME THAT there is no problem with the product quality of our analgesic brand. Can the evaluation of our brand's positioning always present or stop this heritage brand from "dying"? Or can our brand's maintenance of its heritage positioning serve to take decline just because it's now perceived to have reached maturity in its product life cycle? Until when can it hold out?

A: We should start with the broader issue to your three related questions and that's with regard to "product life cycle."

In the pain relief market, it's obvious that your analgesic brand is not the analgesic category. This classification is needed because the phenomenon of the product life cycle applies to the product category and not to a brand or any brand in the category where you belong, i.e., the analgesic category. You can easily visualize a product life cycle by looking at your brand's sales history over the past 20 or even just 10 years. You'll see how irregular its sales' line moves ups and downs are. The curve that that sales' line moves defines is far as very far from the ideal. It never takes patterns of the analgesic category. The S-curve is the usual shape of your product life cycle.

The exception to this, of course, is when the brand is the category such as what you find in a monopoly or near monopoly. So then, should we rest and just smile over the trivial questions. No sirs only need to answer your first question regarding positioning of a "heritage" brand.

A heritage brand

The marketing literature does not have a standard definition of what may be considered a heritage brand. So what **marketing practice has done** is to define it themselves by that is, by encountering cases. That's why you see a variety of marketers referring to "Colgate," "Geneva" and "Hermesse" as heritage brands because for a long time, each was reputed with the product category where each belonged. Colgate referred to toothpaste and mouthpaste, a Colgate. Bayer is to aspirin as a aspirin, and aspirin and Bayer were used interchangeably until in the case of Chevrons, consumers referred to the brand name when they bought a box of tissue paper.

We also sometimes hear marketing practitioners tell us that "Safeo" is a heritage brand because it has come to mean for Colgate three decades of safety. In the analgesic category where your brand belongs, "Biogesic" is counted as a heritage brand. That's because pain-relief seeking consumers have for years of today clearly associated it with the attributes "safe" "even for pregnant women." We take it that this is the meaning of heritage brand that you have to mind.

Now to your question. When will a heritage brand die? How can the heritage positioning prevent it from dying?

For the sake of simplifying our analysis, let's understand your question as associating the death of a heritage brand with the death of its heritage positioning. Therefore, it's safe to say, "When will a heritage positioning die? How can we prevent that death?"

The death of a brand

It makes good marketing sense to say that when the heritage positioning ceases to exist, the brand ceases to exist. It also ends. This can happen in two significant ways. So there are two major sources of death.

The first of these is when the heritage positioning attribute has come to be equally claimed by competitors and consumers favorably inspired by general-

ized the attribute across all the competing brands. As we've explained in a previous column, this renders and reduces the brand's heritage positioning attribute to become a minimum requirement attribute. Maslow's principle of motivation says a minimum requirement attribute will no longer motivate. "A satisfied need no matter how important no consumers that need may be, will not motivate." If the heritage positioning can no longer motivate and you stick to it, you start losing your consumers and death will come in a matter of time.

The second way death will come is when the heritage positioning attribute is when it no longer resonates with the target consumers' priority product value or need. This sounds similar to the minimum requirement case but not the same. Consumers may have just placed the heritage positioning attribute at a low priority level.

To appreciate this, go back to the analgesic attribute of "safe," as one time, in the 1970s and 1980s, "safe" was a priority value below the top priority attribute of "efficacy." While Biogesic as the owners of "safe" were to make the heritage brand in the analgesic category then, it was not the market leader. Then in the 1990s and up to the present, the analgesic consumers' priorities reversed. The top priority now is "safe" while "efficacy" seems to have taken a place. That should explain why Biogesic is now at the top of best-selling analgesics.

So as long as "safe" remains a top consumer priority and as long as consumers continue to strongly and uniquely associate the heritage positioning attribute of "safe" with Biogesic, this heritage brand will enjoy a long, long life. It also helped a lot when its advertising campaign **extended the adjective "safe"** to the action verb word, "Gagaz."

Keep your questions coming. Send them to Marketing Rx@philnet.com or text us at 0919-2310432. God bless!

BUSINESS

Governors push for Jpepa approval

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS yesterday threw their support behind the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement, saying the pact would create growth opportunities in their constituencies, especially in the environment sector, ecotourism and trade.

Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes, who is also secretary, vice president and spokesperson of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, said in a statement the group hoped that the Senate would approve the Jpepa soon.

"Our neighbor the Lanao is in our province if we could plug into this huge environment market. I hope our senators will pave this way for many local communities through the Jpepa," he said.

Reyes noted that Japan was the country's third-largest source of tourist traffic and the biggest source of foreign direct investment.

He said tourism was widely acknowledged as a powerful driver of economic growth, with one arrival usually generating 1.4 jobs.

The governor cited a study on the Jpepa made by the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS), which showed that tourism and environment services would climb in volume income in the country side and provide career opportunities for returning overseas Filipino workers.

Other LPP officials like Camarines Sur's Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr. said it was high time the Senate ratified the agreement since concerns had been addressed.

Nalzaro Sevilleno, consultant-investment under both the Arroyo and the private sector while negotiations were ongoing, it was also discussed in the houses last year, "he said.

Agri growth seen slowing to 2% in '07 due to dry spell

By Zosy B. Reyes

THE GROWTH OF THE country's agriculture sector is seen slowing down to only 2 percent this year due to the extended dry spell that destroyed planting and harvests.

"We would be lucky if we reach that rate as positive target. We had originally set our target at 3 to 4 percent but revised it due to recent events," said Rolando Dy, executive director of the Center for Food and Agribusiness at the University and the Asia Pacific.

The Department of Agriculture on the other hand, had set the full-year growth target that you at 4-5 percent.

On the sidelines of the Good News Explain yesterday, Dy added that agriculture growth for the second half of the year would only be around 1 percent.

"The extended dry spell and delayed planting had set us many back by one to two months," Dy added.

Last year, agriculture grew 3.88 percent, growing P687.4 billion in current prices.

For the first half of 2007, agriculture growth had slowed down to 3.5 percent.

UA&P director cites delays in planting, harvest

Dy noted that the damage to the rice industry alone is estimated at P1.24 billion, or close to production losses of about 400,000 metric tons.

Although Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap earlier admitted that the original growth would have to be revised, he said that DA's estimate was "lower and worse."

"We should be asked to justify his estimates. I have my own numbers but I would be more certain after Sept. 15, which is the cut-off for the quick-response planting program," Dy said yesterday in a briefing.

He, meanwhile, said the target palay production of 16.2 million metric tons by 2007 will before the 8.4-percent growth record, of 2006 due to the prolonged dry spell that had hit Northern and Central Luzon.

Dy noted that the damage to the rice industry alone is estimated at P1.24 billion, or close to production losses of about 400,000 metric tons.

Although Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap earlier admitted that the original growth would have to be revised, he said that DA's estimate was "lower and worse."

"We should be asked to justify his estimates. I have my own numbers but I would be more certain after Sept. 15, which is the cut-off for the quick-response planting program," Dy said yesterday in a briefing.

He, meanwhile, said the target palay production of 16.2 million metric tons by 2007 was "unrealistic."

"Production would most likely be lower than 14 million metric tons. The country needs to import about 1.8 million metric tons of rice, the same volume we have imported this year," Dy said.

Yap, on the other hand, said that the adverse effects of the dry spell could be offset by the harvests from 80,000 to 100,000 hectares of lowland in Visayas and Mindanao.

"Say a southeast that only over two million hectares of rice land, palay production that you would be higher than 14 million metric tons.

Dy also said there was a zero shortage of about one million metric tons.

The shortage would consequently lead to the increase in prices of fruits, chicken and pork.

"Rice has, in end, would be the die hard," Dy said.

It would not be practical however, for the country to import corn due to the high prices in the global market, he added.

"These imbalances will continue well until next year," Dy said.

Biofuels board gets P90-M initial budget

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Biofuels Board (NBB), which will oversee the government's alternative fuels program, has been given an initial budget of P90 million for 2008.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said in a statement yesterday that the P90 million would come from the Department of Energy's P5.6-billion proposed budget for 2008, which would allow the board to pursue its mandate.

Under the Biofuels Law, the NBB is tasked to oversee the supply and quality of biofuels, and to recommend any increase in the volume of biofuels to be blended with gasoline and diesel.

Under the law, all diesel-fuel vehicles should use at least 1 percent biodiesel blend within three months of the effectivity of the law.

Gasoline, on the other hand, should have at least a 5-percent ethanol blend within two years of the law's effectivity.

The mandated blend will rise to 2 percent for biodiesel after two years, and to at least 10 percent for bio-ethanol after four years.

Failure to hit the 1-percent biodiesel blend level will result in a ban.

The NBB is composed of officials from the departments of Energy, Finance, Trade and Industry, Agriculture, Labor and Employment, and Science and Technology, as well as from the Sugar Regulatory Administration and the Philippine Coconut Authority.

Aussie firm to open mine

AUSTRALIAN FIRM OceanaGold Corp. said it was on track to operating its Didipio mine in the first half of 2008.

The Melbourne-headquartered firm describes the Didipio gold and copper project—covering 22,400 hectares of land in Kasibu town of Nueva Vizcaya and Nagtipunan town of Quirino—as "highly prospective."

Recently, output from Didipio is estimated at 227,000 gold equivalent ounces, along with 6 hectares of rice land, paddy production that you would be higher than 14 million metric tons.

Dy also said there was a zero shortage of about one million metric tons.

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It would not be practical however, for the country to import corn due to the high prices in the global market, he added.

"These imbalances will continue well until next year," Dy said.

(For photos, pass)

AFTER MUCH DELIBERAtion, we present to you our choices as the country's modern fashion design masters.

Our objectives here are three-fold. First, we want to laud them for their artistry and generous contributions to the Philippine fashion scene. Each of them, by turns, has made us proud by representing our country around the world and/or sharing with us their talent and home here. They are truly perfect examples of the Filipino artist at his best.

Second, we want you, our readers, to get to know them through our one-on-one interviews with them. We asked them how they got started in the industry, their design philosophies, their views on the local fashion industry (What industry scene would say?).

After you've read the interviews, we're sure you'd understand why they're on our list.

Finally, we want to provide portraits of all four with concepts that stem from their current state of mind. Some fruits, for example, painted larger-than-life designs on glass to depict how one's perceived image seems sometimes bigger and more daunting than the reality permits.

Strong editor Hillel Arugay and top photographer Jun de Leon knew this was no easy task, but being the consummate professionals that they are, they went about completing the assignment, slowly but surely, and with a meticulous eye for detail.

It took two months plus lots of pre-production meetings for each designer to complete four awe-inspiring photographs. All four masters deserved nothing less, of course.

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sudhwani

The sublime Inna Saita

When and how did you get started in the fashion business?

With Christian [Espiritu], accidentally. Christian used to do all the clothes of my sisters and my mom, and there was one summer vacation I was in town (I was based in San Francisco studying Humanities at the time) when my sister-in-law asked why she wasn't able to fit some other pieces, and Christian said that it took a while for him now because he didn't have an assistant designer.

My sister asked "What do you need an assistant designer for?" And Christian said something like: "I just need somebody who can draw for me." That's my sister said. "You know, my brother is in town."

He gave me a call and I told him I could draw. I used to take art lessons as a kid, but I didn't do fashion drawings. I did assisted figures. He said it was OK. So would just explain things to me.

And that's how it all started. So during the entire summer, I spent most of my time in the back room, learning from Christian. Christian basically did draping and cutting. I was naturally curious, so I asked him some things and he would patiently explain things to me.

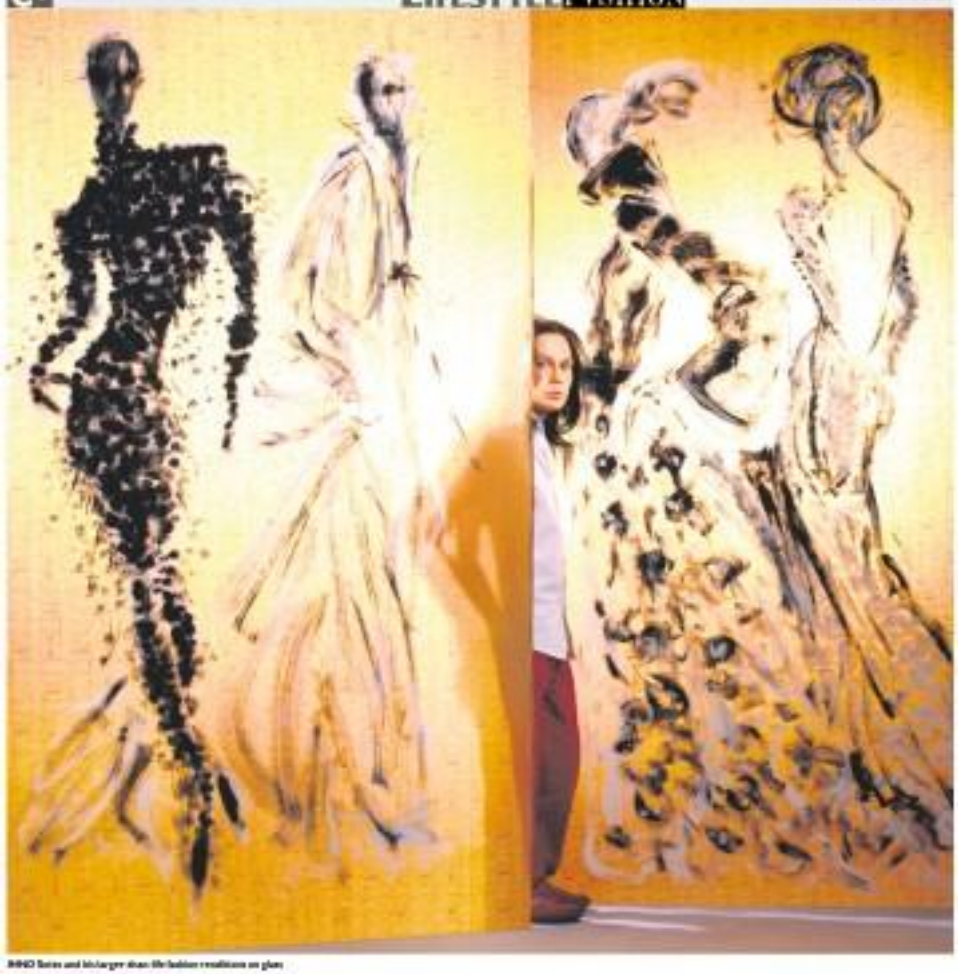
I thought that was a good opener for me to really appreciate what he was doing. And that was the time I got to meet Divas Manahan, Cleona Kantero, most of the women, socialites.

I'm still off. I stayed with him for nearly 15 months before going back to school.

What happened then? Did you establish your business when you came home from school?

No, my whole family was based in the States. So, I came back but I would just go back and forth. I joined fashion competitions because they were open to fashion design students abroad. Fortunately for me, I won them. But then you know, winning is really just cover to cover to.

I was curious to find out whether I would make any noise here, for I began making



MIKO Torres and his larger-than-life fashion creations on glass

Pretongue C1

Modern masters

'More than anything, fashion is seduction—seducing people to get an accessory, a fragrance, a pair of shoes, a bag, clothing, a look. That's what it's all about'

Text by Ige Ramos
Photographs by Jonas Lewis
Concept, Styling & Direction: Mikee Arroyo
Makeup and grooming: Patrick Ramos
Set design: Gardens and Inos Sotto
Hair by Jose of Emphasis Salon
Tie: Oscar Quiaoit
Jigs Manga and Cloud Pots: Art Pots Quezon
Photo assistants: Alaric Contreras, Ramon Yu, Joseph Arroyo
Mingo Photography
Image manipulation: Artist Contreras (Mingo Photography
Intro's Pixel Glass Prints: Complus on Apollo Glass Corp. (tel. 884 3833, 31 3014)

Why, in your opinion, are you considered one of Manila's modern masters?

Probably because I'm still here after 500 years. And maybe, I think, in a certain extent, because we are all different from each other. Angela and I are different, Cesar's so different.

Each designer, because we were just so focused on what we were doing, managed to have his own personality. You can tell if something is very Angela, very Cesar, very Inno.

Maybe as a certain time, after the generation of designers before us, we sort of helped define the closing landscape, the images of women of a certain period.

Over the years, I think the hardest thing, for all of us is to be able to maintain all this. That's the hardest thing, I think, for me... to be constantly interested in my work, and for others to be still interested in what I do. That's difficult.

So how do you maintain, how do you adapt?

You know, I'm just connected with the moment. I think that's the most important thing about being a designer for me. I don't be too far ahead, too avant-garde, because I may only be able to relate to a few, a small percentage of people, who are very far forward in their thinking and appreciation of a certain look.

Neither do I want to be too retro, and to be always stuck in anything that's too old.

I think the most exclusive thing about fashion is that it changes. So even if you do a throwback to the '80s collection, it has to be a 2007 interpretation of the '80s. And that alone is challenging.

You dance with the music. You dance in step with the images. That's so important.

What's your design philosophy?

I don't have a conscious philosophy. But I am sure I am naturally emotionally guided by some artistic force. I'm inclined to do certain things in certain way. I think if it takes too much effort to say something, if I have a verse and it would take three paragraphs for me to say something, that could be oppressed in one sentence, then something's wrong somewhere.

It does also all to a medium, a boutique, shows or an atmosphere. That's what it is. But more than anything, I think it has to be very flattering on a woman. I cannot imagine doing anything that would call too much attention to itself and somehow not necessarily work for the customer. That thought has always guided me.

What does it take to be a modern master?

I have no idea. My concept for this portrait was to illustrate what I do to a size bigger than how it's normally done, which is bond paper size. Because I realize that, most of the time, people have six images of us, whether true or not, whether real or imaginary, that's much bigger than who we really are and what we really do.

And sometimes the reputation, the impression sort of precedes you. That's why I wanted something that doubled my height.

Originally, I wanted graffiti. I wanted that and then to do graffiti on it because I wasn't telling it that seriously, but I know it is bigger than what it really is and who I really am, or who Angela or Cesar really is.

Oftentimes, some people would probably look in that. But it can be a hardship, too. People sometimes think you're difficult to approach, you're capricious, you're supposing. Until they get to know you, can't. Quite a few encounter—it is just a impression.

The celebrity hunt that comes with my work—people begin to associate you with an image, which you did not consciously want to create but that only evolved as you were doing what you did to the best of your abilities.

There are people who believe the fashion industry is actually nonexistent in this country.

There really is none. That is one reality. I understood it during the time of Chitoseas, Pitoy [Moreno].

What will it take for us to have a fashion industry?

I think we have to be able to source things here. We don't have a real textile industry to support designers, for one. That's why everyone sources from the same place. If we all have the same five pairs of rhinestone fabric in the same color, one will do it a certain way and one will do it in many ways, which is in so many ways, but yes loose, it's basically that.

I think we need a school. I think it has to be all school, coherent, connected.

Who do you think is responsible for all this?

The government. The government must believe in something to push it. But I don't think it's considered an industry if it doesn't bring in dollars. The Filipino designers that are known abroad are the ones who are based abroad.

What are your current projects?

I have a show on Oct. 29. Right now I am the creative director and creative consultant for Bench. It has to do with image and merchandising. It's another aspect of fashion that's interesting. I have a few things between now and the first half of next year that I'm putting together.

Where are you at this point in your career?

Having lost a business partner two years ago opened my eyes to many things. I've had to tackle issues that I've never had to tackle before. But over the last year and a half, I've become stronger, more sensitive.

I realized I couldn't always be that somebody would look after me. So even if I would probably get into a situation where I'd have new business associates, I can no longer just somewhere see what I want to do and let somebody else see it is that everything is ok.

Mark Richard Thayer gone. I've had to face certain things. But I've gotten over that and I've moved on. And also because of that, I seem, in a way, less conscious now of having to comply with and find out if I should do this or if it's time for that, which is good.

I have more confidence now; I have more guts. Which is I had that before—and I think Richard, too, that's why we went in the same direction—I'm more audacious now.

I'd like to think there's so much more to fashion than the things I've actually gone through in the last 500 years. I see it from new perspectives now, the made-to-order business and retailing. Work as I was also very conscious of branding my own brand. I am conscious of other things now, all the aspects that was once always considered.

I'm so conscious of one perfect image, one perfect ineligible, so I seem to be of fashion women who must be conveyed a brand. It's interesting. The amount of effort and dedication in the same, but the approach becomes different.

But in the end, more than anything, fashion is seduction. Seducing people, men, women to get an accessory, a fragrance, a pair of shoes, a bag, clothing, a look. That's what it's all about. You seduce them into accepting. Basically, that's what fashion is all about.

And yet what's interesting is, much as I seem to be the solution, I find myself constantly being seduced by women because, men more than ever in the history of fashion, women have more access to things. They have the license now to wear anything and to express themselves.

Pitoren, I think, have that ability to be the quintessential chameleon. And that's something I find so fascinating.

E-mail the author or uploader @inquirer.com.ph

Urban warriors

Text by Alice Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guan Penaflor

ALTHOUGH FASHION IS often associated with females, being fashionable is never synonymous to being feminine. One can adopt cigarg-mode evidence and shop to diminishing men's comfort and capacity to be engaged in metrosexual matters.

For decades, not a few stylish examples are centered on this belief as they tend to look presumptuous and rarely unfair metrosexuals about their confidence or grasp their complete luxury balanced briefcase and brief bridges.

If Metro 1997 have others more to be the group, the well-coined modernists also began to proclaim himself or refer to be taken more seriously. MEN'S DAY Philippines "gentlemen's" months, in cooperation with Globe Business and Budget, recently honored eight outstanding men it deemed as contributors in their respective fields as well as sources of inspiration to others.

Awareness progress

The event also doubled as an awareness program for the Le Mitos Amigos Park and the Le Mitos Waterfall. In fact, the eight awardees, whose huge personalities were displayed at the cocktail venue, were photographed by Jun Black, Steve Tirona and Alfonso Angeles with the nature park as backdrop.

Sen. Gloc Pacadiano, actor Eric Fructuoso, TV director Lorenzo Shugo (a second in man-size muscles enough to create a stir) from other TV stations led the awardees, which also included engineer Victor Gonzaga, comic jokester and Odyssey creator Jay Rencelle Santiago, Asia Brewery's Emeliano Reynoso and designer Hilda Bilad and Dr. Wendell Rivera.

Except for Rivera, Bilad, Fructuoso and Lhuillier, the rest of the awardees failed to grace the event as expected, mainly as the Weekend Tour.

Despite an organizer in tempo to cope as often with a supposedly no-show debt, however, a crowd more than half of the audience who emerged in the venue had carrying in mind to wear their sleeves on the latest RTW outfit. Fashion by some of today's biggest designs as well as local hi-labels such as Paul Smith, Hero, Give more, Bench Hardware, Pilot, Hermes, levi's, Dockers and Dada Mita.

Impressions range from the corporate to the sporty, emblazoned as the groups, wholesomeness to the naughty while the likes of Paul Smith and Emmet Hechers showed impressively tailored jackets based on their trademark color patterns, homegrown brands such as Mecho and SODA did their light-crescent of clothes suppose-fully suited for fall and summer, respectively.

Soda Mita wore for a short-sifts mod, 1960s look with slim pants, knee-length pinstripe shoes and lively dagging shirts. Pilot, on the other hand, characterized 1950s London with print of sweaters, striped ties and hoodies a la Elite Young Celebrity. Hero likewise also threw in opinions from female symbols with sweaters and weekend bags emblazoned with stylized Union Jacks.

Levi's again proved that there's room in the kind of their jeans with slim and updated jackets, lined ties and lightweight sweaters in versions. Dockers produced an image as round Friday and weekend wear with laid-back jumps in light colors.

With a few notable exceptions, the collaborators' general look tended to focus rules layering or mix-fixing silhouettes.

And to keep the fashion show from becoming an all-male affair, it featured a few female models in women's clothes by Paul Smith, Mecho, levi's and Ben Sherman. Also all, being the only female and having a knee are for fashion like trimmed grades.

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Paint the town rouge

Pretty pleats
Pleats are back and they are wider than ever! Touches of pleats are more flattering than a full pleated dress.

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

IF COLORS HAD CHARACTER, then you could say red is the most powerful of all.

In the medieval times, wearing red was the exclusive right of the nobility. Kings, cardinals, judges and executioners announced their power over life and death by wearing red coats, which symbolized their rank and authority.

Because of its exclusivity, red is the most frequently used color for national flags. Think of socialists and it's red that comes to mind, predictably a shade tinted back to the effect of red—powerful and passionate, sensual and stylish.

Red is also the newest fashion theme in the country. The Colour Red recently launched in Manila, and is now making its way to Barcelona and London via its namesake label, Rouge.

Facing America with style, this fashion house creates pieces for the modern woman, evoking an intensity and energy that bring out her strengths and individuality.

A team of designers who merged with the fashion and passion of Filipino designer Pony Quiñones created Rouge. "The kind of woman I see wearing my collection is one who dresses big," Pony shares about his designs for the ground-breaking label.

"She is tasteful and quiet to ground, but likes to make a grand entrance at a party. The pieces call attention to them, others look at a sophisticated, elegant woman. I want to keep seeing things as she flits about."

Known mostly for his quirky yet classic collections, Pony draws inspiration from his experiences and observations on the chic and trendy streets of the world. He takes these global ideas and infuses them with local hearts, by working with indigenous Philippine materials and rich silks or shredded chiffons and cotton voile. The offspring is both modern and traditional. A global Filipinoness, a resistant feel to totally extreme.

Pony encourages a sense of uniqueness by the three mix and mix of the materials with the various iterations of the pieces in the collection. It is very forward thinking, as it encourages flexibility and expression.

It is the perfect interpretation for Rouge's vision—designs that are effortless, dramatic and sexy with a modern twist. Multi-functional, reversible wraps and removable skirts are the core items of its collections.

We will be introduced to Pony's first collection of the label this autumn/winter here.

Resort Wear features mini dresses, long tops over short shorts, cropped and loose tops with matching pieces. For Day Wear, expect classic cuts with added detailing such as piping, lace to unusual pieces and even buttons in pieces and materials that are both used unexpected.

The Corporate Wear set showcases dresses that work from the office to a cocktail party—no having to office looks here!

And, finally, Evening dresses pieces in big colorful prints in classic cuts.

With global labels coming to Manila from all over the world, it's about time we did the same through our own powerhouse label. With Rouge, Pony Quiñones is pursuing the global village red.

Visit www.TheColourRed.com.
E-mail the author at jjtch.
ess@magdirect.com.ph

Photography
Charles Lo of #Hallmark
Art direction Michael Salluscos
Makeup Gino Cleofe
Hair Stories of Bridges
Model Mia Bolivar
Clothes/Rouge by Pony Quiñones

Black orchid
Pong poses for black dress with ruffles and harness.

Party line
This maxi, pre-minimalist with pearl buttons details has sparkly eyes on a not fabulous party dress.

Interview with a vamp
Angel wears red here with love to the model's red carnival number.

Hot and spicy
Be the belle of the ball wear in Christmas eve ornaments. Create a grand entrance with this fiery frock.

REVLON Inter Actives Anti-white Treatment

There's a direct correlation between oily scalp and hair loss or baldness

KMAPS for Men Clarifying Formula shampoo

Myths about dry vs oily hair

KERASTASE Bain Prevention Shampoo for oily scalp and hair-fall prevention

ONE OF MY MAJOR PET peeves is hearing people proclaim a shampoo's too harsh (or too moisturizing) unless it causes their hair to fall.

To say a shampoo is too harsh usually means it is too drying; to people who complain about dry hair go for mild baby shampoo or a moisturizing formula. This is a big mistake because there is a direct correlation between oily scalp and straining hair loss or baldness.

Those who get bald must likely have inherited a parent's genetic scalp as well. The genes blocks the hair opening so pore on the scalp, cutting oxygen supply to the hair follicle so it eventually suffocates and falls off.

Most hair has a life span of about four years per strand; that's why it is normal to lose about 75 to a hundred in a day as new strands push the old one out. If, however, you lose hair strands before their four years are up, you have to wait for a new cycle for new ones to grow; hence a bald spot emerges. Lesson: that blocks the hair pore may just doom all chance of hair ever growing back, leaving you bald for life.

All major shampoo launches are for color-treated hair. So there's no reason to make your every hair stick on right by bonding it down with tons of moisturizing properties. Guess what? Those of you who have oily scalps still go bald. Those with thick hair and normal to dry scalps are of course here entitled for the amazing new products.

All those moisturizing shampoos keep being sold to the losers in making me lose more hair. I tell suppliers I have oily scalp and my sweat and my genetics to start with that; but they count my hair is dry because I have it highlighted. Nobody makes hair shampoos for oily hair coz we lose. The few times I have tried which are reasonably priced have been pulled out of the market due to lack of demand because all those oily tell us we have normal to dry hair, not paying attention to our scalp.

Fact: You should never really, not bad, because what is literally the root of your hair problems. For dry ends, you should use a rich conditioner and leave it in that area, keeping it as far away from the scalp as possible so as not to suffocate the pores.

Fact: If you are stressed, your skin produces more oil. Stress with the scalp. Tied to why we lose hair when we are anorexic. Due to our bizarre watches and stressful daily situations, most Filipinos have oily scalps than they think. It's true that the shampoo-related stressed others, but it will respond all that stress goodness, at least partially, as hair-loss which is our less thing to stress about.

Fact: Hair-fall shampoos still only help if your problem is hair breakage, not hair loss. Inspect your hair strands. If there is white bulb on the end, then that's hair breakage; if there are white bulbs, then that is hair loss. Hair-fall shampoos will not help hair loss.

Products to use

Shampoo:—You need one blow big bottle for that. I found Avant Men Shampoo Deep Cleansing at Rustan's Fresh grocery or Department; it's only P120 for a huge 420-ml bottle. It works just as well, if not better, than expensive salon or specialty-shop shampoos for oily hair.

Also keep your eyes out for White Rain Clarifying or St. Ives Clarifying Formula usually found at groceries or drugstores. Those who have color-treated shampoos, go for The Body Shop's Tea Tree Shampoo (P475) or Kryolan Bain Prevention (P975).

Conditioner—Use whatever suits your hair strands, but keep it away from scalp. Normally leave-on conditioner is great with Benadrl's.

If you already have a conditioner you are happy with, there is no need to buy new brands.

Treatment—Tea is the part that will not rot. Revlon Professional Inter Actives Line has only hair-loss product that you need on your back for 24 hour interval; it's a wonderful product. I got mine at Rustan Double Salon, but you can also find it at other salons. I cleaned up my semi-permanent tints such as Jazz, Jack, and shoulders and, of course, it reduced my hair loss/fall by 50 percent. My hair also became less oily to my delight as pictures showed with a lot of oil on my head. Unbelievable. A pack of 30 costs about P3,000, and, according to an administrator at hair expert, one needs a 60-day supply to you would need two boxes.

If your problem is mainly oily hair, then you can't refrain from caustic trials to be used every other day. Be justified. Apply to scalp evenly but do not massage in as this will stimulate oil production. (There goes another myth about having hair oils and scalp massages when your hair is falling.)

Again, this code works if the problem is breakage and not hair loss. Breakage often occurs with damaged hair strands or very dry hair and scalp.

Ate Barbra answers to product, call Barbra Santos at 8402000 or AskSTAR.Kabayan products are exclusively available at hair salons.

E-mail the author at barbrasantos@yahoo.com

Olay Total Effects expert says the damage to skin by pollution, stress and smoking may be checked by lifestyle change and the correct skincare products

The war against aging

By Ramona C. Burgos

EVERY WOMAN DREADS THE day when she glimpses the first wrinkle or fat—otherwise smooth skin. But for many, that day is creeping ever so close than they expected.

"We're seeing many more women with skin damage or earlier signs today," says David Khoo, a P&G skincare scientist based in Singapore. "And the number of young women with skin cancer is startling."

Khoo has worked closely with fellow scientists in research and development to develop new skincare treatments for the Asian consumer. His most revered result: Olay Total Effects. The Olay Total Effects product, for which he has worked with internal Olay scientists and external dermatologists to confirm the efficacy and safety of the product (retails at P).

He has also worked with a group of dermatologists to develop the Asia Pacific Center for Skin Aging, a research body studying skin aging.

Sun, pollution, and smoking in adolescence and early adulthood are the culprits behind age spots, broken blood vessels and irregular pigmentation by the time you're in your 30s, Khoo says. "Judging those three is the best way to keep skin looking young as long as possible. But if damage is already done, don't lose hope. Going under the knife isn't the only option. Even though you can't completely undo the effects of aging and unhealthy habits you can take advantage of P&G's Olay Total Effects range of products that may help hide those flaws."

Improved formulation

According to Khoo, the improved formulation of Olay Total Effects has 7X power more than ordinary moisturizers or Vitamin E, which works in combination with Vitamin E and Pro-Vitamin B5. Vitamin E functions as skin soothing and conditioning agent while B5 is a humectant (attracts skin moisture). The product can target more than four times more antioxidants, which provide effective protection against skin damaging free radicals. "One gram of the new Total Effects Eye Cream contains more antioxidants than one gram of red grapes," Khoo says.

The new Olay Total Effects provides the benefits of seven anti-aging treatments such as sun damage/tone, smoothing, firming, radiance, eye treatment, gentle exfoliation, post-inflammation preventing moisturizer and subtle tinting," Khoo says.

The new Olay Total Effects skincare line includes cleanser (foaming Cleanser, Cream Cleanser and Anti-Blemish Cream Cleanser), booster (Night Cream, Eye Cream and Serum) and moisturizer (Normal, Normal plus UV, Gentle, Gentle plus UV and Blemish Protect).

Sunblock

Many people still strongly assume that sun protection is required only for a day at the pool or beach. In fact, you need it everyday. "When you're walking your dog, or even sitting next to a window for a long time, you're getting incidental sun exposure. And, over time, that adds up to sun damage," says Khoo. Her antidote to the sun is protection factor (SPF). Olay's moisturizers with an SPF of 15 blocks about 96 percent of the sun's rays. That can make a big difference to someone who's fair-skinned.

Besides causing wrinkles and other damages, aging and sun exposure can skin-darken oily skin. Khoo recommends regular use of a moisturizer once a woman is in her late 20s or 30s to smooth and soften skin. He recommends avoiding but infrequent discover (which can remove the body's natural oils) and clarifier/mist soaps, which can be drying.

Scientists like topical Vitamin C or E normalize free radicals (unstable oxygen molecules that break down skin cells, damage DNA and accelerate aging). and can improve the skin's appearance and protect it from more damage, Khoo says.

Fountain of youth

The secret to forever youthful skin may literally lie in the fountain—water. Moisture depleted skin cells room for plumping, healing hydration, which you can provide through the application of moisturizers. Khoo notes that the skin's outermost dry layer (dead skin cells, acne scars, dry flakes behind) can be more obvious on darker skin) during the rainy season. He recommends scaling in your hydrating efforts morning and night with a thick, moisturizing cream.

Oh, those dreaded dark under-eye circles! They happen to the best of us. But unless those blame fats, heredity or too many late nights, take action. According to Khoo, lifestyle habits such as smoking, drinking too much caffeine and overindulging in alcohol cause capillaries to leak iron and blood cells into the under-eye area, giving it a dark appearance. Keeping allergy and sinus conditions in check can also help reduce dark circles. The even more impact, use Eye Cream dedicated to this problem area.

Initial presentations, Khoo also introduced the Skinalyzer, a skin-analysis tool that helps women look beneath the surface to understand skin aging. Dark spots, collagen and hemoglobin are found beneath the surface of the skin and influence their appearances. Those proteins are affected by the aging process, both external and internal. "The Skinalyzer shows how those proteins are affected and helps women understand how bold lifestyle can help," Khoo explains.

"You're never too old to prevent your skin. You may feel like giving up when you see the consequences of damage done in your teens, but that's no excuse for skipping daily sunblock," says Khoo. "Just change is cumulative—and that means every day's step do a little more harm. If you're starting that golden tan, try bronzers. You'll get the same glow, but without the guilt."

NEW! Olay Total Effects skincare line includes cleanser, booster, moisturizers and concentrators.

DAVID Khoo interviews Shampoo, a skin analysis tool.

Yummy mommy

Pregnant Oil

It's really very important to avoid the labels. I asked Anna Cruz of Nanna's for a list of products that would be safe to use by women in my condition. I told her about my concerns, such as stretch marks, dry skin, my hair, for safe moisturizers, etc.

Well, through her help, here are some products that I've been using. It's as if these products are going through the pregnancy with me and, sympathetic to the concerns that I voiced, are offering support in their own way.

Palmer's Cocoa Butter Formula is a must-have line for all expecting mothers. I use the soothing oil for belly duty, while the massage lotion—I do stretch marks. My friend who used these products during her pregnancy swears by them.

I also got the vitamin E sun screen to reduce the appearance of my existing stretch marks. Seriously. Only 3 days of using it and I'm sold. The stretch marks were flatter, not as obvious, and those of you who are kinky enough and to have their should start thinking of using it as well. There's no more pretty, and they're the cheapest.

Gentle treasure

Another new found I recently discovered, thanks to my pregnancy, is The Organic Pharmacy. I love its Antioxidant Face Cream, an anti-aging product with a gentle treasure that makes me feel I am not doing my basis to the baby in my tummy.

My skin has become extremely sensitive since of pregnancy probably because of my more frequent bathroom use. But, since I always feel warm, I would sometimes get sudden dizzy with the antioxidant face cream, my skin has become supple again, and I don't get that oily feeling since the cream is light and banishes the feeling of tightness.

That doesn't banish the sometimes bland cream, which has a yummy cherry scent. It even comes with candy gloves, so I can keep looking like Hickey Monster.

But that's okay. With all the meals I do better sleeping. I wake up feeling well-nourished and reinvigorated. The making sure I'll have a happy, safe pregnancy ahead, and that I'll win the war against stretch marks in the end.

BEAUTY

Contributing Editor
Ria Francisco-Prieto

Yummy mommy

Some beauty products are not for pregnant women like me. Here are some that are safe to use

TALK ABOUT baby boom! I know at least 12 people who are expecting a baby. They include me. And now I know what it means when they say all pregnancies are different.

I have a friend who is always on-go-to-the-gym, and she only cringes on her toes, she is even allergic—if you can call that a symptom at all. I, on the other hand, am perpetually dizzy, nauseous, feeling hot and sleepy, plus I need to nap in bed and have to go to the bathroom every hour.

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

I get anxious just hearing my friend talk about her diet or the mall, while my only day out is when I'm off to see the doctor.

Since my pregnancy is more delicate compared to hers, I find myself worrying about everything. That includes the products I use on myself. Fortunately, because of my vigilance, I found out recently that one of the creams I've been using had a warning saying it wasn't for pregnant women!

WARNING

What is Oriental beauty?

Is it the way you look,
the way you feel,
or the way you are?

Come find out at the
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- **Robinsons Galleria** - August 29 to September 2
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- **Robinsons Manila** - September 12 to 16
- **Festival Mall** - October 13 to 14
- **SM North EDSA** - October 18 to 24

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LIFESTYLE

A THROWBACK to the '70s, Wallis Carlos jersey dress in fuchsia

WHITE collared shirt, beige knit sweater and culottes, wear bag and oversized silver jewelry, all from Wallis

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IV Glutathione P1,800
7 sessions
GODIVA

Brit brand returns soon

A NEW FACE OF Wallis will excite Manila's fashionistas when it opens Sept. 1 at the second level of Robinsons Galleria.

The biggest international brand from the SM clothing giant Avenida Group Ltd., Wallis dresses today's busy women with classic pieces that achieve a look that is grown-up, elegant, individual and easy distinguished.

The new Wallis store will carry the latest autumn/Winter '09 collections which draws inspiration from the 1970s and 1980s, with a definite nod to futuristic touches. An emphasis on strong color and multilayering gives an understated glamorous edge to the wardrobe. Adornment is also key this season, with exuberant prints and delicate fashion-forward necklaces.

Wallis also offers Wallis Petite, specifically designed for women 5'3" in height or under.

Mark your calendars and go check out Wallis right on opening day.

Wallis is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Salvatores Specialty Stores Inc., which is also the exclusive franchisee for Topshop, Topman and Dorothy Perkins in the country.

IT'S ALL about color in the A/W '09 collection, as in this color panel dress.

RIPPED trims are important; breast pocket with visible zips is worn with a flashing purple knit.

GATHER jacket in natural, worn over pearl blouse, wide leg and wide-lapped pants, all from Wallis.

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FUN night out for Raymond and Tricia Mojica

THE INSIDERS, one of a kind classic DJ, Ina Alvina Calatna, with Warehouse 135 mate Jose Bernas Pintano

WAREHOUSE followers Derek Ramsay and Ash Morgan

ALEX Villanueva and Jannell Stevens

HEAD-TURNERS Gisha Sevilla and Diana Zubiri

HANDSOME brothers Hiro and Carl Portia

DJ music perks up energy-driven Manila

TIM Yap with Mad Dash winners Jazzy Martinez and Aris Smarilla, and McDonald's Bertie Ocampo

PERKY, ATTRACTIVE BLONDE, DJ Celebrity, sorely missed the Aphrodite in her bosom brews when she played the fab, hypnotizing music in her third time in the Philippines.

The popular Warehouse 135 and Brixton brake ground for the comeback of this sizzling bill of talent, dubbing it DJ who produces her own tracks and does her own records. Her tracks are, Sands down, a mighty crescendo! And that's Celebrity for you, pating-pat.

Believe me, it was pure bliss, palangges, watching and listening to Celebrity and obviously this third time. But it seemed like the first time for everyone at Warehouse 135.

After-wise told about the band comes for that night. People filled the club, crowding the dance floor and singing along with Celebrity, who gave them a dose of her music to last them till her next visit!

Opening for Celebrity that night was Dynasty's DJ Ali Nepomuceno, who played a deep, slow sexy Chicago house. It was a fun thing young guns for his talent and skills that seems to have improved threefold in each appearance he makes.

Congratulations to Dream Manila and Warehouse 135 as well as the event's major sponsors— Winston, Smart Gold, Chivas and ABC5 — for bringing back Celebrity.

24/7 race

We have had many races around town lately. Runners, palangges, there was the first 24-hour race with a cool P100,000 cash prize. We are referring to the Mar Roxas Mad Dash, which started at midnight and involved 24 teams racing to 24 host McDonald's stores around Metro Manila.

There were three celebrity teams, dressed with maps, cash and a race card to get them to the next pit stop, the teams roamed our town, stopping over the McDonald's 24/7 stores along the way. And take note, dahlings, they got assistance by public utility vehicles — from jeepneys to tricycles and the MRT and LRT lines.

Kick-off point was McDonald's Las Piñas. The teams raced all the way to the finish line at McDonald's Quezon Avenue.

We can't believe that all the teams completed the 24 stores. There were a lot of physical and mental endurance, palangges.

"At the moment, we have over 70 24 hour stores in Metro Manila, four in Cebu, one in Cagayan de Oro and two in Davao," said McDonald's vice president for marketing Margot Torres. "However, it's our thing to roll out a new store every 24 hours and it's another thing to tell them where the stores are located. So, we thought the best way to let them know is to bring them to the stores."

Twenty-four McDonald's stores later, Team Pointer Pros' Victor Basa and Carla Humphries reached the finish line. Half of the cash prize of P100,000 would go to the Ronald McDonald House Charities while the other half will be donated to the team's charity the Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support Group.

For the non-celebrity teams, it was Team 666 Arlo Amarillo and Janry Martinez who won first place. They received their check for P100,000 with Big Mac smiles.

Hey with McDonald's 24/7, late night workers, late participants and early-morning risers can dash over for their favorite McDonald's fix all day and all night, palangges.

New mobile styles

Beyoncé's hit song "Irreplaceable" had many singing or humming it, palangges, during Samsung's awesome Hiccup bash at Fiamma, dahlings.

That night was the grand debut of Samsung Mobile's many phones, the F300, F700 and M800, which are the hippest cell phones of the hour.

Apres tons of cocktail finger food and endless booze, the party people were all cute when Samsung's hot VP for mobile phones, Charles Chua, got the party on a roll by giving a brief background about the Samsung Hiccup, which is already a smashing hit among music aficionados — a great gadget "to scouring life's most memorable moments."

She would hardly rush my way to a spot where one could watch the superb designs of Metrosexy, which were donned by models embracing up-and-down the silver and white industrialistics of Fiamma.

Metrosexy and Sabrina's cardigans and tees were paired with stripe pants and jeans, which completed the look.

Metrosexy, Samsung's three new debutantes made the overall style all the more hippy.

Catching Samsung's totally cool scene were stunning F300 ambassadors such as young actress and model Denise Laurel; race car driver and host Gaby dela Merced, actor and MTV VJ Geoff Eigenmann; and Magic 89.9 jock and MTV VJ Andi Manzano.

Hey, palangges, check this out: Every Wednesday night will be Samsung Hiccup night until Sept. 12 at Fiamma on Aguirre Street, Makati. Drop by in your coolest and hippest gimp, palangges.

DIRECTOR Mario J. de los Reyes (second from left) with Isa Calzado, Sandino Diaz and Joanna Privano

DRIVEN'S top scorer DJ Ali Nepomuceno

NET.Ino ng Samsung GX10!

HIGH Camera!

NINA Lust-Medalcado and Sheryl Sta. Ana of White Black Berlin

CHARLES Locsin and Ryna Reyes of Yo Rocks!

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Maurice Arnache
Photos by Alex Von Rieger
using Kodak EasyShare

EIGHT Eigenmann

SAMSUNG'S Pen Reyes and Tess Marquez

SARAH Lois Batlle and Shoot Away Natasha of Hi-Dee

DAVID Bayliss and John Anthony Dyangko of Cobra

SASCY Aguila and Robert Wood

TEAM Tulsur (trio celebrity winners as in me Carla Humphries and model Victor Basa

F300 ambassador Denise Laurel and Samsung head for mobile phones Fe Portia

HAMMA'S Photo Stills

SAMSUNG Channel manager Mark Sangler, Samsung VP for mobile phones Charles Chua, First Asia Mobile Inc., general manager Eddie Chan, Comworks chief executive officer Martin Leysac

BEAUTIFUL faces at Fiamma: Jamie Smith, Marilen Yasmine, Bubbles Morales and Bianca Valerio

JUNGLE Fever, Mega Lopez, Moira Santos and Nina Santos

Department store boosts beauty with promo

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT Store (RDS) is holding "Timeless Beauty" for the whole month of August, featuring makeup brands, prizes and discounts at the Health & Beauty Aids, Cosmetics and Perfumery Department stores.

The promotion seeks to help women achieve the look that they want—dramatic, monochrome, playful or natural.

Wearing the wrong makeup hues may make women look tired and bring skin imperfections.

Thus, understanding and choosing makeup colors that flatter one's face can make a big difference in balancing one's look.

For beauty tips, drop by RDS and check out products from Wheat, Clear Anti-Bacterial Shampoo, Pond's, Dove, Human, Revlon, Max Factor, Olay, Black & White, Colgate, Palmolive and Silver.

For a chance to win a three-day, two-night vacation package plus pocket money, Dermatone includes Bali, Indonesia and Phuket, Thailand. The raffle ticket is for every P300 purchase from Health & Beauty Aids, Cosmetics & Perfumery Department stores.

THE RIGHT makeup and colors are important in bringing out your best features. Check out Robinsons Department Store's "Timeless Beauty" this August for great makeup buys and discounts.

Do you want to be a supermodel?

NOW ON ITS 9TH SUCCESSFUL YEAR, Runway Productions kicks off the Supermodel of the World Philippines 2007 Search.

Any natural born Filipina who is at least 14 years of age and has a valid Philippine passport may apply as long as the size fits: chest 36/A as well as good bone structure, good teeth, proportional body measurements and a positive attitude.

Applicants must bring a black mini dress, heels and swimwear. No makeup, please.

Runway Productions was established by the Espino brothers Audie and Joey in 1992 who began their career as fashion show directors/producers.

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Promo period: July 21- October 31, 2007

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Nora's Hotline: 533-nora

PRODUCTS NOW AVAILABLE FOR DELIVERY

GOINGS ON

Denim festival ongoing

STA. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL Store unveils its annual Denim and T-Shirt Festival until Aug. 31. Shoppers can enjoy up to 50-percent discount on selected items. Free umbrellas await the first 500 shoppers with a minimum single receipt purchase of P1,000 on any denim and shirt brand. Present your receipts at the customer service counter to claim your freebies. Meanwhile, the mall also holds a health and wellness fair until Aug. 31. Highlights of the fair are the makeover and product demonstrations. First 500 shoppers can also get free umbrellas by presenting a minimum single receipt purchase of P1,000. Call 681-0181.

BIOLOGY WEEK. The Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences of the University of the Philippines-Manila holds the 50th Biology Week (PBW) with the theme "Global Warming: A Global Warning (Biology at the Forefront of the Global Warming Issue)." The weeklong event kicked off last Aug. 21. A variety show, Bio-gyigan is set today. Call 5260861.

CREATIVITY WORKSHOP "Thinking Beyond the Box (Developing Your Creativity)," a one-day workshop for teachers is set on Aug. 31 at Hotel Sonnenpalm Tagaytay City. Call 6479000.

SEMINAR. Learningville presents "Use Taming Sugar: An Expertise Set Learning of Positive Discipline," Aug. 25, 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon, at Learningville Center, 58 Bayani de Ave., Loyola Heights, QC. The seminar-workshop is designed for parents, caregivers and teachers of young children who exhibit typical behavioral problems. Key topics, counselors, learning specialists and life coach from the Center of Family Ministries at Ateneo de Manila University will facilitate the workshop. Limited slots are available. Call 4345506 or e-mail learningville@gmail.com.

CAMETEN DESIGN CONTEST. Nickelodeon has launched the Camiden Design Contest for kids 14 years old and below. This year's theme is "Share." Entries should be received by Aug. 31 at Nickelodeon, 3/F, Silver City Mall, Fronters Drive, Jolo Verges cor. E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Pasig. Include your name, age, address, contact number and e-mail address.

BOOK FAIR. The 28th Manila International Book Fair is set on Aug. 29-Sept. 2 at SM World Trade Center Mall in Manila, Sm Dil Pasal Avenue, corner Roxas Boulevard, Pasay. Call 8900841 or 8969802; e-mail booklist @booktrustasia.com.

SEMINAR. The Philippine Librarians Association INC., National Book Store and AnvilPublishing Inc. will host a seminar on Preparing Libraries for Emergencies and Disasters by Heather Maxwell, the chief librarian of the State Library of New South Wales in Australia, on Aug. 30. The talk will focus on useful techniques in preparing library collections from all types of natural disasters. Participants can also avail of special prices on all titles displayed at the Anvil booth during the event. There will also be a daily raffle draw. Call 6237314 or 6109502.

CONVENTION. Christian pioneer church he lacobe will join forces for Church of God Manila's building fund project, on Sept. 9, 7 p.m., at the Philam Life Theater, Makati ave. Manila. Call 81 90999.

POSTGRADUATE COURSE. The Department of Pediatrics, Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines and UNILAB Foundation Inc. will hold its 2007 postgraduate course "Subspecialty Alert in Common Pediatrics," Sept. 12-15, at the Century Park Hotel. The course aims to give pediatricians and general practitioners basic management skills for childhood diseases. Call 4263000 or 5213000 locals 2120 or 2137.

SEMINAR. Marc Thomas of Mikia, an association of Mikia Fleet-shops and Chamber of Fleetcleaners of the Philippines, will conduct a seminar dubbed "Strengthen Your Parenting Business," Sept. 22, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Quezon City Sports Club, QC. Call 7 000047, 7 000128 or 7323 011 local 213.

PHOTO EVENT. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation presents Photoworld Asia 2008, Jan. 31-Feb. 5, 2008, at Glorietta, Makati. Seminars will be held at the Asian Institute of Management. The trade fair will feature photographers and photo suppliers from Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Philippines and Taiwan. Call 5247578 or 5260071.

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PMAP former presidents with junior Aquino Ilalo Perma, Rhea Santos, Dino Manansala, Yvonne de Leon Gonzales, Desiree Alexander, Agatha Morris Sudlacan and Leo Balaoga

PARTICIPATING designers of the 20th PMAP anniversary gala. First row: Victoria Hurley, Joey Samson, Inarkoski Kramer, Gerry Ketigbak, Patricia Ramos-Cleto, Ramon Estrel and Rachel Dela. Second row: Rhett Eala, Jesse Llenos, Hunter Iglesias, Raja Laurel, Aref Bacsafra and Frederick Peralta. Top row: Dennis Lardizo, Anthony Moore and Antonio Garcia

Has it really been 20 years?

CLEAR THE RUNWAY FOR THE 20th anniversary of the Philippine Models Association of the Philippines (PMAP) next month.

To celebrate two decades of being the most prestigious modeling organization in the country, PMAP is holding a grand get-together of all its current and past members, plus the fashion designers, directors, makeup artists and other industry associates who have helped them along the way.

It is by no means a modest version of "generations of models and designers, no a fashion event sponsored by super aggressive and high-profile fashioning. "Twenty Years of Divas!" promises to combine glamour, style and tradition.

Counted as one renowned fashion designers from Sorro and Auggie Cordero, as well as rumored designers Lulu Tan Gan, Mike de la Rosa, Rhett Eala, Raja Laurel, Jojo Llenos, Dennis Lardizo, archivist Noemi Ronda, Orok., Freddie Peralta, Bernie Galvez, Gerry Ketigbak and Patrice Ramos

STYLISTS for the 20th anniversary show: Patrick Rosas, Mario Suarez, Eric Manlapaz and Noel Jimenez

Dias.

It will be exciting to see their clothes play against the lines of the younger designers.

The show will also feature the collections of fashionable names, Aref Bacsafra, Vittorio Barba, Antonio Garcia, Mariteo Iglesias and Joey Samson.

The first of its kind in role, PMAP is an organization run by models for models.

When it was founded in February 1987, it was meant not only "to uplift, protect and professionalize the modeling industry in the Philippines" but also to develop and sublime national and international awareness, participation, involvement and competence in the field of modelling."

"Through the years, PMAP has served as a key force in the development and upgrading of modelling as a trade.

"PMAP ensures that the best breed of models maximize professionalism in their work," says president Diana Hamangpil-Samson. "It also protects models from exploitation as it makes sure models work reasonable hours and are compensated based on standard rates. The PMAP also fosters a good relationship among models, designers, clients and producers."

To set the record straight, the PMAP is not an agency. Rather, it is a non-lucrative an association and a union of models.

"In a union we are equal always our rights

CURRENT PMAP exco officers Bobbie Parsian, Fabella de los Santos, Rina Samson and Marites Escobar

The first models' guild marks two decades of guiding and protecting its members

as an association, we have a vision of what we want to become in the future," says Tina Marasigan-Ocampo, one of the PMAP co-founders with the country's top models at the time.

Beyond the organization's professional commitments, PMAP has also fostered community programs and social projects for such beneficiaries as Tahanan Sta. Luisa, Habitat for Humanity, Asian Green the Little Children and Hospicio de Sta. Ana.

The PMAP has also participated in fundraising projects for the Ward Wichita Foundation of the Philippines and Bonny Reboton.

It's time to avoid Trans Fat!

It's time to get healthy! It's time to be aware that some of the most common food you eat have something very bad for you: Trans Fat.

What is Trans Fat?

There are four kinds of fats: polyunsaturated fat, saturated fat, and Trans Fat. Polyunsaturated fat and polyunsaturated fat are the "good" fats because fat is the "bad" fat people have long been warned to avoid. Trans fat however is the worst kind of fat.

Proven Undeniable

From the World Health Organization to the U.S. Food and Drug Authority, there have been many recent warnings about the health problems Trans Fat can cause. In an article published in the New England Journal of Medicine on April 13, 2006, the researchers stated evidence linking Trans Fat consumption at increased risk of coronary heart disease, sudden cardiac death, and diabetes. Trans Fat from partially hydrogenated oils have harmful effects on blood lipids, promotes inflammation, and causes blood vessel abnormalities, all of which are risk factors for heart disease.

Common Foods with Trans Fat

The majority of Trans Fat can be found in cookies, crackers, snack foods, fried fast food, doughnuts, pastries, baked goods and other processed foods made with or fried in partially hydrogenated oils.

Try to avoid Trans Fat as much as you can. Read the labels of the packaged food you buy. Look at the ingredients list. If it says on the product label has the words "partially hydrogenated" or "shortening" on the ingredients list.

Go for Zero Trans Fat

Look for products that say they are "Zero Trans Fat". Mr. Magnum's Cracker Bars. Unlike other snack foods that are fried in partially hydrogenated fat, Magnum is toasted. This ingredient has no trans fat and comes only roasted to perfection and contains...with none of the bad Trans Fat.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Bernard L. Vitanzo

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CELEBRITY filmmaker says he's a writer first and foremost.

BY MACHETE BALAZO

Deconstructing Tarantino

or, The little spider's stratagem

By Commander C. Tejero

"HONK, I'M A LITTLE SHY right now," says American film auteur Quentine Tarantino when he sees a jam-packed Greenwich membership forum at Eastwood Mall in Cubao.

But the moment he mentions his new and revamp around which is falling—from "Pee Wee" to Tolstoy, from Samuel Fuller to Eugene O'Neill—we see he is in his element.

Script and literature

Tarantino is an auteur in the original sense of that term conceived by the French film buffs, who in the late 1950s, which is, a director who has managed to put his personal stamp from film to film.

It is inevitable, as he is one of the few Hollywood directors who writes their own scripts. A Tarantino film is often stylish, stimulated by over-the-top violence, in your face dialogue, off-red genre bending.

He has made only five features—"Reservoir Dogs," "Pulp Fiction," "Jackie Brown," "Kill Bill" and "Death Proof"—but so strong is his personality behind these films that, in less than a decade, his name has entered the lexicon of moviegoers.

"Cause we auteurs," he says to film students in the workshop forums. "I don't consider myself a scriptwriter. For me, writing a screenplay is an avenue to writing a novel. My screenplay is literature. You're not just reading a blueprint—you're reading a piece of art. I'd the auteur I'm most concerned with the written word."

Point he means is, a good screenplay should be able to stand independent of the resultant film.

"I want to be one of the great auteurs of the 21st century," he tells his now-frenzied audience. "Doesn't anyone know it, I'm saying, I want."

Classics and genres

In saying it, he shows the auteurs with literature that a simple screenplay link by split into two films and each one he called a "volume," as if he wanted to impress upon moviegoers that they were free to find with a ponderous Russian novel.

His ambitions peaked in "Kill Bill," a two-volume rendering of the Hollywood Renaissance, chattering out the Coppolas, the Scorseses, the Woody Allens.

He also remembers watching John Francis "Rolling Thunder," "Cinerio" ("Dr. Fulton...for you my man"), Gerry de Leon's "Women in Cages," Jorge Lomel's "Set a Bee Before More."

He longs for those hot Jones directors, Italian and German movies, and compares "Eyes Wide Shut," Stanley Kubrick's final masterpiece, as something of a joke...because who would want to watch a movie by one movie? He considers the '80s the worst decade in American movie history.

The ad-diction in him must have seen the experience as one revealing scene where classics were underappreciable from junk. Here we can see why his movies feel like the sophisticate cartoons of the purported auteurs.

He says he's "pissed off a little bit" to have to explain his movies.

Influence and source

His characteristic bold catchphrase is visibly displayed on "Kill Bill," an unlikely blend of ten-directors, irony and mayhem, epitomized by Bruce Lee's kung fu vocalized in the breakneck song by the Pentagon theme "Misirlou Dance."

Those B-grade Asian movies are not merely influential on his filmmaking. They're the likelihood of his art.

"Reservoir Dogs," the debut feature which catapulted him to international celebrity-hood in 1992, has not only borrowed the plot from Ringo Lam's "City on Fire." It is a virtual adaptation, if not, indeed, an actual remake, of the 1987 Hong Kong movie.

Some scenes for him even replicated shot for shot, blocking for blocking. The infamous cutting-of-the-ear scene has a counterpart in the stabbing of the head in Lam's movie.

(Lam's character is more complex but there, more charming and Virgo because more human, less show-offish, less sentimental, and Chow Yun-Fat is certainly more empathetic than either Tim Roth or Steven Seagal.)

Speaking of homage, as first-time-speaking friend says the auteur could have his own word in movies, as "spider," than as deconstructive heroine is "little spider." It could be, as this film author has the original Bee still in owners a web like his namesake.

DID YOU KNOW...

Elliott Yamin in RP this month

"AMERICAN IDOL" sensation Elliott Yamin is coming to Manila to spark the interest of fans of the reality show and Filipino music lovers. Characterized as having a "raw" and "gritty" voice, the whatever-worked talent is known for placing third in the fifth season of the much-vaunted televised singing competition in a close race between Taylor Hicks and Katharine McPhee. Aside Manila leave Yamin's concert series at Resorts on Sept. 11, Glorietta on Sept. 12, Makati Market! on Sept. 23, Ayala Center Cebu on Sept. 26 and Alabang Town Center on Sept. 28.

Steve McQueen's Manila-born wife . . . Pretty Girl

two like yours to match in spirit and tone?

I liked "Stay," "Walk the Line" and "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers." My book's spirit and tone will set the movie apart from the others simply because the stories of these two people before they got together are unusually dramatic.

Will the movie focus strictly on your life with Steve?

It will cover our lives as a very young couple.

What qualities will you be looking for in actors who will audition to play Steve?

The actor must have the qualities that Steve had. He was both playful and brooding. He was the world through the eyes of a child. That's why he was great with kids. He had the instincts of an animal. He was very dangerous. He got the feeling that here was a man who could be very dangerous. 50 million met me when I would like to play Steve.

For actresses who may want to audition to play you, what qualities will you be looking for?

Anyone can play the as long as they fit the bill. The director and producer will have to come up with the character description. I'm not in objective about me.

Can you share some basic details about your mother, a singer-dancer who was known as "Miami Pearl of the Orient"?

Her name was Carmen Galvedon. She was born in Barcelona to a German mother and Spanish father.

What is your reaction to the following comments from Publisher's Weekly: "Like Elvis [husband Steve], she was neglected by a promiscuous mother."

I think they got it right. I can't elaborate.

What do you recall when you encountered as a young girl to the US?

It was lonely, difficult. Yet I was very happy to leave boarding school surrounded by welcoming kids who didn't know me. I watched Ismael and interested what was required of me. I was not close to my mother. She never worked again to an entertainer and she passed away on March 1, 1975.

When you and Steve were in Tokyo for the shoot of "The Yard Pebbles," you made a trip to the Philippines for the first time after 17 years. How did that go?

I was in Manila for a week. I wanted to see what the city, especially Santa Rosas, would look like to my grown-up eyes. I saw my mother's residence and the nunnery who raised me. I met a friend I went to school with. The scene was fun.

Can you share the story behind that documentary photos obviously taken during your visit to Manila? Who was "Sonny" to be?

After the Spanish-American War, my grandfather, who had fought on the Spanish side, went back to Spain to get my grandmother, my mother and my uncle (Los Indianos). He was a Filipino and he had repeated hardship with Filipinos, so friend a young Filipino named Sonny who was 16 at the time. Sonny took care of my mother and uncle. My grandfather passed away and, soon after, my grandmother. Sonny stayed with my mother, who was 14 at the time and my uncle Leo, who was a little older. When I was born, Sonny took care of me while my mother worried around the world as a singer/dancer. She came into our household when she married Sonny. They had three children.

When we left Manila, my mother bought them a house, where they lived for the rest of their lives. I loved them both very much. I don't know who happened to their children.

Can you talk about your father?

I never met my father.

E-mail the interviewer at rmpala_33@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Impala Papers," on www.inquirer.net/specialfeatures/impalapapers

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1		2		3		4
GLORIETTA 4	1		2		3		
GREENBELT 1	1		2				
GREENBELT 2	1		2				
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1		2				
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1		2		3		4
MARKET! MARKET!	1		2				
TRINOMA	1		2		3		4
	5		6		7		

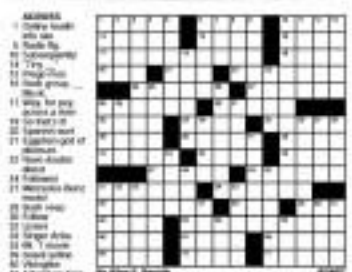
AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

glorietta	Alabang Festival August 29 to September 2, 2007 at the Activity Center
GREENBELT	Greenbelt 5 Dance Park presents Collection of Ayalas August 29 to September 10, 2007 at the Greenbelt 5 Lobby
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Alabang Town Center Grand Grocery Shopping Spree Promo July 1 to August 31, 2007, Alabang
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Symposium for soon to be mothers August 28, 2007 at the Activity Center
MARKET! MARKET!	Laguna Expo August 30 to 26, 2007 at the Activity Center
Christ Stage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at SM's Dress Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 687-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Elements Postmodernist Painters August 30 to 28, 2007 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 ext. 311 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tsi Nanna	Luxury Car Exhibits August 24 to 30, 2007 at the Activity Center

ComicRelief

DAILY CROSSWORD



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

			1			2		
	5		4			6	9	
3	8							
			6		3			
2	7						3	8
			8		1			
							5	7
	4	7		8			2	
		1		9				

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and a variant of normal sudoku here

Answer to previous puzzle

9	4	7	5	6	2	1	3	8
6	2	3	1	3	4	6	7	5
1	5	8	7	3	8	4	9	2
7	3	1	9	2	5	8	5	4
2	6	4	8	7	5	9	1	3
5	8	9	4	1	3	2	6	7
3	9	2	6	4	7	5	8	1
6	7	8	2	5	1	3	4	9
4	1	5	3	8	9	7	2	6

★★★

ENTERTAINMENT

ARLE and Steve in one of the hundreds of snapshots taken when they were "both young and beautiful."

Steve McQueen's Manila-born wife on her life and biopic

LOS ANGELES—THE ANnouncement in our column on Saturday that the body of Manila-born Neile Adams (also known as Neile McQueen Toffel) about her life with the late Steve McQueen ("My Husband, My Friend") had been approved to be made into a movie, elicited feedback from a reader.

Didoot, who is related to the Salvadors and has done some research on the family tree, shared: "Is your cohort, Steve Adams, the entertainer and author, who is said to be related to Philippine show biz's Salvador clan ..." Yes, Neile Toffel is indeed a part of the Salvador clan. Her mother, Maria Andres, was the sister of the late Lou Salvador Sr. Thus, Ms. Toffel is the cousin of Mapy Salvador and cousin of Phillip Salvador and the late Leroy Salvador."

We got to interview Neile via e-mail. The singer-actress-author discussed her life with Steve, the movie project and a sentimental journey back to Manila in the 1960s when, after many years, she once again saw the folks who had raised her.

Neile was incarcerated with her mother in the Japanese prison camp at the University of Santo Tomas during World War II. At age 11, she studied in Hong Kong, she returned briefly to the Philippines and then left to live in the US at 16. She went on to become a Broadway performer and Hollywood actress who married Steve McQueen, and then Alvin Edell.

She chronicled her life with Steve—whose iconic status continues to grow since his death at 50—in "My Husband, My Friend," which is available on www.amazon.com.

The Hemet you gave Steve was recently sold for $3.35 million. What do you remember about the day you gave it to Steve?

I bought the car for $14,000 in 1963 for his 33rd birthday. It was an exciting moment for him and for me. It's not that he's like him, it was the powder blue car in the 40-people-packed engineering room we reserved. He went driving down the most highways ... and promptly

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Barbara D'Andrades

rear ended a car as he turned on both as a prank girl in a bikini.

What are your thoughts about Steve being such a cool icon until today?

Steve was at ways a cool icon. Nobody on the streets thought, tallied or dressed like he did. He was the first actor to wear his own clothes; nobody could touch him as the actor in originality was concerned. Then he made it to be most popular nowadays is a tribute to his having reached to his own drummer. It's cool, dreamed.

What from of Steve's is your personal collection do you cherish the most?

The antique jewelry that he was fond of giving me. And hundreds of photos of us when we were young and beautiful.

You envision the movie adaptation of your book as a "true life love story set against a glittering Hollywood backdrop." Can you elaborate?

The theme of our story is the love we had for each other, which never never when outside forces destroyed the marriage, but never that love.

What hopes have you admired? Which ones would

CONTINUED ON E5

The indie roundtable talks

Foreign investors favor RP films

ARLEEN CUEVAS

By Gerry Pisay
Inquirer.net

PRODUCERS OF INDEPENDENT FILMS in the Philippines need no longer fret about the lack of funds to complete their work.

Foreign investors who regularly fund such indie movies (also Filipino independent films) seriously dwelling out grants to provide local filmmakers the needed technical and creative resources, according to an indie producer.

Plus factor

"When they see that a film is from the Philippines, it's a plus factor," said Arleen Cuevas, who was among the speakers during the indie roundtable talks held recently at the Inquirer offices.

Cuevas has produced award winning films, among them, Boots Marilla's "I Don't (Un Abour the Indie Sucksss)" and Yuni Isamotte" and Adolf Alix's "Barlin" and "Tambolera."

Her entourages established independent filmmakers, as well as budding directors and producers, to take advantage of the country's stellar image to the world-wide indie film circuit to acquire foreign funding.

Local grants

On the other hand, she reminded them of local grants, which have increased of late.

Cuevas enumerated: "There are grants from Cinemalaya, Indie movie channel, Cinema One, NCCA (National Commission for Culture and the Arts), FDCP (Film Development Council of the Philippines)."

The funds usually come in 6 inches, she said. As such, she noted one difference between local and foreign funding. "Dirisi kailangan ay talagang mag-ebento [ano story flavor to spend your own money at Enot]."

Overseas investors usually release the money in full, Cuevas said. "You just give back the finished product). [But] they always ask what your plans are for the film. Will there be a theatrical release?"

If box office success is rarely a guaranteed result, what are the rewards of doing an indie?

"Independent filmmaking (driven by) come it is done out of love," Cuevas explained. "If your film gets awards and a shown here and abroad, I guess (for indie filmmakers) that's better than money."

Other participants in the roundtable discussion at the Inquirer were award-winning directors Avis Librizan, Rommen Sobrevilla and Gene Cajayon, and actors Thirsty Pie Picache, Gita Paredes and Irma Adlawan.

'Sea' life, a whole new view

"DEEP SEA 3D," AN UNDERwater film narrated by Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet, debuts at the Sun Mlipard Cinta Cala IMAX Theatre, SM Mall of Asia on Aug. 29.

The 3-D digital exploration of the ocean's depths and creatures is expected to transport audiences below the ocean surface, with dangerous and unidentified creatures like the Pluff fish and the Giant Pacific Octopus.

"When I put on the IMAX 3D glasses to watch 'Deep Sea 3D,' it was like putting on my dive mask," says director Howard Hall, a renowned underwater cinematographer. "It provides such an experience that you're able to get up close to the creatures much like I did shooting the film, but without getting wet."

"Even with a large number of people who do scuba dive, lots of them have never seen these characters or seen how they interact with other animals," comments producer Toni Myers.

The movie reunites the dynamic filmmaking team that produced "Into the Deep 3D."

For details, call 556-8547.

Susan Fernandez and friends in PGH fundraiser at Tropezz

THE GREATEST HITS OF THE 1960s AND '70s come alive in "Ultimate Throwing" — a fundraising show on Aug. 29, 9 p.m. at Tropezz Restaurant & Bar, 2nd floor Greenbelt 5, Makati. The gig is for the benefit of the Philippine General Hospital's Women's Desk and features Jessie Corpuz, Rosario Fernandez, Maria Andres, Tido Mallonzano Ong, Lary Morales Tangcuman, Mari Villapando, former members of the Ambulakral Cowell, the former Greenhouse Singers and the Hot Stool Singers, all of whom were once Queens of the Hot Stools (come in and sit on!). 07-08-mon. Call 555-5684 or 0917-8117756.

KIMAH

New Pinoy band

New Pinoy band 2cBe launches its debut album, "Search for Warmth" (Sony BMG) with a concert at 6 p.m. at the Central Plaza of Eastwood Libi, Quezon City.

The band is composed of Jessell Gomez (vocals), Archie Salvador (guitar), Jasper Gomez (drums), Anthony Nazareno (violin) and Jesse Cruz (bass).

Bukas Palad at 20

Bukas Palad Music Ministry celebrates its 20th anniversary with a new album, "Hindi Kita Malilimutan," which will be launched with a live performances tomorrow, 7 p.m. at the Church of the Gesu, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

The album features guest artists Gary Granada and Cookie Ballesteros, and a composition by Noel Cabangon.

SHOW TIME

New Minstrels live

A mixed lineup of the New Minstrels performs tomorrow at Sunday's Fiesta Montero, Quezon City and on Aug. 31 at the Fiesta Casino, Iloilo province. Call 373-9980.

Music fest

The country's hottest bands and solo pop artists perform live at the 3rd Budweiser Welcome Arts & Music Festival & Trade Fair to be held today until Aug. 26 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall.

The event features The Dawn, Pinoy Rockstar, Imago, Brainless, Kjwon, Reinserting Verna, Gino Sibal't, Agnes Aquinal, Mikaella, Eraserheads, Cutterhead Island, Mahaba, Slot A, BY, Bamboo, Jadoo L. The Late Isabel, Glen 9, Noel Cabangon, Jethro Tenorio, Kimmy Tuason, Mikee Pegues, Jakarian, Pepe Smith and many others.

Log on to www.budweiser.com.ph/pinoy.com

Ogie's 40th b'day gig

Ogie Alcasid performs in "Dance of My Life" tonight and tomorrow at the Music Museum.

Conceived as an intimate gig to celebrate of his 40th birthday, the concert also features Regine Velasquez as special guest.

OGIE ALCASID

For tickets, call 891-9999 and 725-8728.

New York DJ

New York DJ Nat King Soul, who has performed with the likes of De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest, The Pharcyde, The Roots and L.L. Cool J, spins the latest underground R&B, old school hip hop, '90s favorites, Brazilian funk and dancehall beats at midnight tomorrow at the Vapor Room of Alchemy, Silver City Mall, Zobel Tarpan Ave., Dasmariñas Cavite, Pasig.

Call 996 1305 or 0917-5136401.

Classical meets pop

Singer George Emm Tagle bridges classical and pop in "Salitre to George: First Major Concert with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra," a dinner concert on Sept. 13 at the Coconut Plaza Grand Ballroom, Ortigas Center, Pasig.

The Bicol-born tenor-songwriter is the 2004 Awit Awards. Tagle has been singing professionally since 1998. He was a member in several show bands and took up classical music at the Ryan Cayabyab Music Studio.

Call 911-5615 or 426-7298.

Tonight

Mitch Valdes, 8 p.m. at Cagnate's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati.

Resident in Tatan. Call 712-0949, 721-7874 or visit the nearest Boutique boutique for details.

Tomorrow

Freestyle at Great Coral Resort, Batangas.

Jungo, 5 p.m. at Robinson's Metro East.

The Filmakers, 9 p.m. at Revolver Space 8 Annex Inn, Manila Pavilion Hotel.

Call 526 1202 extension 1317.

Aug. 26

Sponge Cola, 5 p.m. at SM Dumaguete

LIVING Stars

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

Editor Bienvenido G. Yolarde

SCARLET Coach bag

DISNEY Princess wall clock

Singing champ Sheryn Regis has a room full of souvenirs from around the world

'I enjoy being a girl'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by August de la Cruz

GLOBE-TROTTING SINGING CHAMP Sheryn Regis goes on shopping sprees whenever she comes, here or abroad.

Apart from presents for her four-year-old daughter Sweety, Sheryn always brings home bags of goodies.

Her last jaunt started from Calgary Canada, where she headlined two shows for the Philippine Tourism Authority. She's a regular on the MTV-CBN variety show "MAS" and has recorded "The Modern Jukebox Collection" (21 for four Records.)

DOLLS

She owns exotic pieces from Russia and Thailand, but the most precious are her Barbies. Fellow champ Christian Bautista gave her an "Immune Idol" Barbie. "Star in a Million" bandmate Erik Santos, a Califorian Barbie.

Four low must review UK trip. Sheryn acquired seven new dolls, one of them a Barbie Christmas 2007 edition.

GADGETS

A Chinese fan gifted her with a top-of-the-line cell phone. Sheryn recalls: "My friend now still phone had some under my last encountered it with the same model. After doing a show in Dubai, a resident gave me another cell phone."

At home, she would usually be busy with the Nintendo or her Sony PlayStation 2. When she's on the road, she lugs along a Sony PlayStation Portable, Nintendo Destroyer and iPod Nano. She keeps in touch with family and friends through her Toshiba M115 laptop.

ECLAT CAMPESSE by Lanvin is her current favorite scent.

KILLER rollerse are okay with her.

BARBIES. Barbie everywhere.

CLOTHES

Practical Girl doesn't hoard gowns and other ladby clothes. "I live in a condo," she explains. "I don't have space for my show clothes. On stage I have to wear gowns and dresses, but when I'm not working, I prefer wearing jeans."

SHOES

She's not afraid to wear killer stilettos or stage shoes. Installed, she stands only 4'11."

Her shoe collection can be described as diverse and ultra-feminine, mostly glittery strappy stilettos, in gold and jewel colors.

SCENTS

A current fave is Jicke d'Arpage by Lanvin. She also likes Dolce & Gabbana Light Blue.

BAGS

She's a certified bag lady with new ones down toss in her cabinet. Her most prized possession is a white-ruffled Zac. She also has a scarlet Coach, plus other bags in shiny animal prints and all shades of pink. "Pink is my favorite color," she says. "It's so girly."

H&R patterns collection.

RUFFLED white Zac tote

SWEATERS and Disney caps

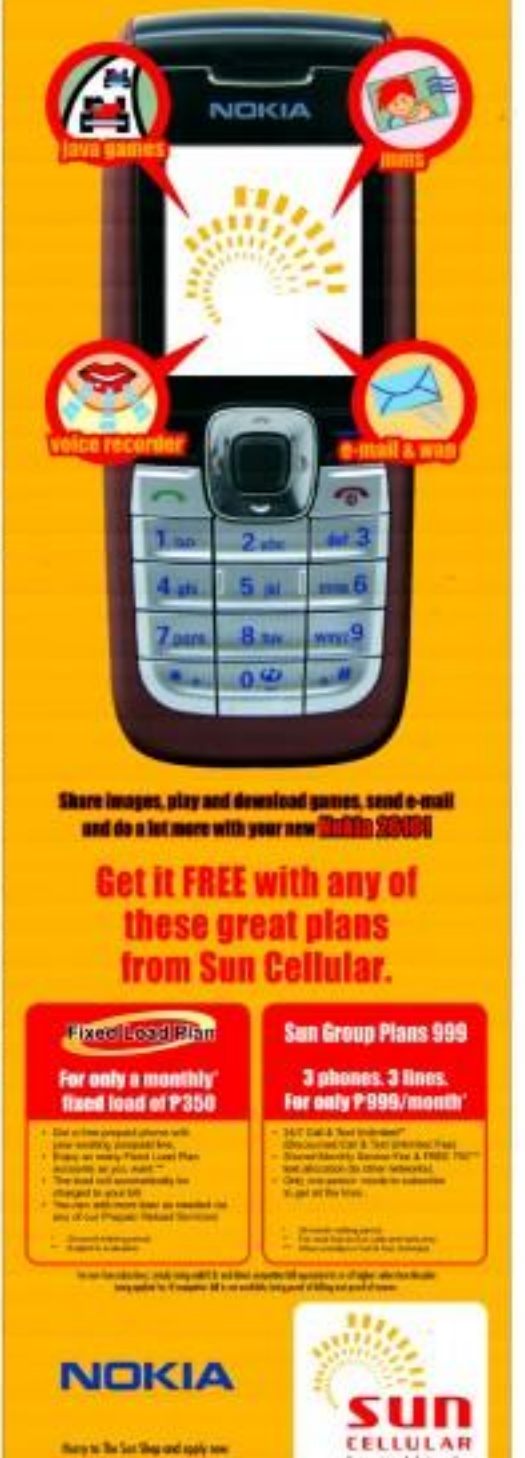
CAPS

She owns Beanies baseball caps and a Louis Vuitton floppy hat. Of course, she also has hats from the Barbie and Disney Princess lines.

JAY-R

I'VE ALWAYS had a recording studio at home—even when I was still in the United States. But this time all my equipments and gadgets are top-of-the-line. I just upgraded to Pro Tools TDM (recording system). I love it. The sound it produces is so clean. I love hanging out here because it's like an office with high-tech toys. I have everything I need here. My housemates Kris Lawrence (right) and Jimmy Alonzo (left) and I make up Islands Brothers Productions. Our work revolves around music. Since I work closely with my housemates (Jimmy composes songs and Kris has guested in Jay-R's album), having a home studio is very convenient.

Bayani San Diego Jr.



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NICOLE KIDMAN DANIEL CRAIG

THE INVASION

How champs k

...ept "Surf's Up" real

DID YOU KNOW...

THERE'S A REASON those wave-riding penguins look so real in the animated comedy "Surf's Up." During the film's production, champion surfer Kelly Slater visited Sony Pictures Imageworks to critique wave scenes.

Visual effects supervisor Rob Bredow said the time with Slater was invaluable. "It was pretty informative to sit next to him and let him show you the screens, with which he draw us exactly which parts we still had to work on."

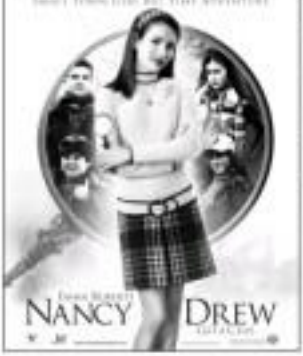
The champ also appears in the movie in

...tain form. Artists captured his personality and mannerisms, but Slater provided his own voice for authenticity. ...s eight-time world champ, Slater is considered the ...successful pro surfer in the history of the sport. In 2005, at the Billabong Tahiti Pro contest at Teahupoo, ...e became the first surfer ever to score two perfect

...ual bond resulting with Slater, the "Surf's Up" team ...lled classic surf movies ("Endless Summer," "Step Into ...") "Second Thoughts" used combined videos from ...ompetitive surfers.

...e surfer team could never find a unique identity, the ...ors studied works by sunset photographer Frieo Lazeration. They took sailing lessons and shot reference ...eo on an outing to Cortez Bank, home to huge waves ...ared over a cluster of underwater mountains 100 miles ...f Southern California coast.

OPENS SEPTEMBER 5



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...GT reminder Russell Crowe scores the stars of ...lle Dunnville Spencer as he is being interviewed at ...r "3:10 to Yuma" premiere at the Mann Motional ...eatre in Westwood, California.

'3:10 to Yuma' preem in Westwood, CA

CHRISTIAN Bale and wife Sibi Blazi

DANIELLE SPENCER

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3 EVAN ALMIGHTY	7 RUSH HOUR 3
4 SURF'S UP	8 SIGNOS

NOVALICHES

1 A LOVE STORY	4 RUSH HOUR 3
2 SIGNOS	5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	6 RISE

PIONEER

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY	3 A LOVE STORY
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	4 HAIRSPRAY

STA. ROSA

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 A LOVE STORY

LIPA

1 OSS 117
2 A LOVE STORY
3 LICENSE to WED
4 THREE

DASMARIÑAS

1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 A LOVE STORY
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

IMUS

1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 A LOVE STORY

ANGELES

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STROY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

TARLAC

1 A LOVE STORY
2 THE SIMPSONS
3 LICENSE to WED

STARMILLS

1 THREE	4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	5 SURF'S UP
3 A LOVE STORY	6 RUSH HOUR 3

BACOLOD

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY	2 A LOVE STORY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY	3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 SURF'S UP	4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 RUSH HOUR 3	5 BLIND DATING
6 RESERVE	6 RISE

ILOILO

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6 RISE

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NOVA VILLA

I HAVE TWO FAVORITE BOOKS—"THE Poets of the Silas God" by Maria Valeria and "St. Thieves of Lisbon (Ste Lara Gra, ecrantier)" as translated from the original manuscript by John Clarke.

I bought these books in the '80s. These are very pervasive to me. I'm fascinated by the lives of holy people. Don't we all strive to be holy? Marina R. Cruz

BOOKS

SUZI ENTRATA-ABRERA

I LOVE "HARRY POTTER AND THE Deathly Hallows," the seventh and last novel in the series. The hype and excitement for J.K. Rowling's books is infectious! Plus, I've read all the six books before it, I'd be crazy to miss it. From "Mallorca," I learned how inspirational it is to stand up for our values and finally I also learned to be patient—I read only a little every day for the rest of "Unsung Hero" and "Hurricane Season" by Mitch Albom. Both (although I wanted to savor it, I recommend it to everybody. It's awe-inspiring, but at the same time sincere and hymn. Great twist in the end! Rowling (and it all) stopped me previously known endings now end up. It's filled with touching moments (and some a bit scary-eyed). Beyond San Diego Jr.